

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Feb. 18	Hankow	Mar. 25
San Francisco	Mar. 2	Yokohama	21
Hongkong	22	Nagasaki	25
Tientsin	25	Foochow	24

Shanghai mail advices of the 14th of Feb. were received in London on the 21st of March.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1898.

THE RUSSIAN DEMANDS.

Now that Russia has obtained her final payment from China for her assistance in turning the Japanese out of the Liaotung Peninsula, it is interesting to look back and see how exactly her demands were indicated in the two secret documents which we were enabled to publish to the incredulous world in 1896. It was a little more than two years ago that we published the secret treaty between China and Russia, though a year before that we mentioned that Wang Chih-chun had made a secret treaty with Russia when he went to St. Petersburg to congratulate the Czar on his accession; while later in 1895 a well-informed correspondent at Hongkong sent a telegram confirming our information to the *London Times*. All these statements, absolutely true as they were, were ridiculed at home. Russia formally denied them, and that was enough for the British Foreign Office and the semi-official Press. *Populus vult decipi, et decipiatur*.

The first detailed statement of Russia's intentions was published by us on the 3rd of March, 1896, in Shanghai, and by the *Times* in London on the same morning, but the *Times*, while publishing it, sneered at it as showing "that the inventors of current reports have more imagination than knowledge." Even well-informed people here who misdoubted Russia only accepted it as being a sketch of what Count Cassini would like to get China to agree to. The following is a summary of the terms of this "secret treaty," whose existence was so emphatically denied by Russia, though our informant had seen the actual document, endorsed with the word "Approved" by the

members of the Ministry of War at Peking:—

1.—An offensive and defensive alliance, allowing Russia full use of Chinese harbours and arsenals; with liberty to buy horses and engage coolies. If the other Powers remonstrate, China will plead *force majeure*.

2.—China offers Russia, Port Arthur, Kiaochou, or any harbour in Kiangsu or Chékiang, and provides the Russian ships with Chinese linguists.

3.—When China is in difficulties, Russia will come to her assistance.

4.—Russian officers to have free movement in Manchuria.

5.—Russia may continue the Siberian Railway to Talienwan or some other convenient point, giving China the right to purchase after fifteen years.

6.—Russia may fortify the island at Talienwan to protect the railway terminus.

7.—Russia may erect forts in China south of Vladivostock to protect the Siberian railway.

8.—Russia may march troops to Corea across the Yalu river.

9.—China gives every facility to Russian commerce by the Siberian railway.

10.—Russia lends officers to drill Chinese troops in Manchuria, Chihli, Shantung, Shensi, and Kansu.

Publicists at home were especially amused by the provision that China should supply Russian men-of-war with interpreters, though as a matter-of-fact they were actually on board some of the ships when the treaty was published. It was regarded too as a "most mysterious stipulation" that Russia might march troops into Corea across the Yalu, though nothing could really be less mysterious. There is nothing in this treaty that has not been or will not be carried out, except Russia's promise to come to China's assistance when she is in difficulties, in accordance with which Russia ought to have interfered with the German seizure of Kiaochou Bay. It has been argued that Russia's acquiescence in this seizure is a proof that China had not already ceded the Bay to Russia; but really Kiaochou Bay was only one of several harbours put at Russia's disposal, and the Russian Admirals had reported on it unfavourably.

The secret treaty took a definite shape in the Cassini Convention, a translation of which we published on

the 28th of October, 1896. This Convention was officially denied and ridiculed, but unofficially it was treated with more respect, although there are still some who are obstinately unwilling to own that they made a mistake in proclaiming it to be a myth. When we published it, we summarised it as follows:—

"This document speaks for itself and gives Russia all she can want at present. It gives her the right to carry her Transiberian railway to Kirin in two directions, from some station in Siberia to the west of Kirin, and from Vladivostok. It provides that China may apply to Russia to build a continuation from Kirin to Shanhai-kuan and Port Arthur, and it gives Russia the right to protect these lines when built with her own troops. All the lines are to be built to the Russian gauge. China gives Russia the right to work mines in Manchuria, and provides for the employment of Russian officers to drill the Manchurian levies. It gives Russia (on lease) the port of Kiaochow, and on emergency the use of Port Arthur and Talienwan, which are not to be ceded to any other Power; and it promises every facility to Russian merchants and travellers and Russian trade. All the most important points in the secret treaty which we gave to the world in March last are embodied in this, and time will show whether this is the full extent of China's gratitude to Russia."

Sir Claude Macdonald's proposal that Talienwan should be opened as a treaty port forced Russia's hand, and obliged her to assert her claims under the Cassini Convention earlier than she perhaps intended to do. Our Foreign Office must regret now that it did not take the Cassini Convention more seriously, and that it accepted the Russian denial so ingenuously. The China Association here is doing everything it can to impress on our Government and the British public, as well as that of the United States, the danger of the situation. We understand that it has pointed out to the London Committee of the Association and to the New York Chamber of Commerce that British and American commercial interests are alike imperilled by the aggression of Russia in Northern China; that it has no confidence in the promise that Talienwan shall be a free port, whatever that may mean; that if Russia is allowed to construct the proposed railways in Manchuria, China cannot possibly observe her existing treaties with other Powers; and that unless Great Britain intervenes to prevent North China falling entirely under the domination of Russia, British influence and prestige here will be annihilated. The alternative seems to be for us to consent to the partition of China, and take our compensation in the Yangtze Valley; but this is an alternative which we have hitherto consistently refused to accept. As we wrote two years ago: "The historian of the future;

when he tells the story of the breaking-up of the oldest empire in the world, will date it from the time when Count Cassini was Russia's Minister at Peking."

Summary of News.

THE English mail of the 18th of February arrived here on the 23rd inst. by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Chislar*.

THE American mail of the 22nd of February arrived here on the 23rd inst. by the steamer *Gaelic*.

THE American mail of the 2nd of March arrived here on the 27th inst. by the steamer *City of Peking*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Thames*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

London, 21st March.

RUSSIA'S DEMANDS.

The Chinese Government has offered to Russia a lease of Talienwan, and to allow the Railway, provided that Port Arthur remains Chinese.

THE FRENCH DEMANDS.

Negotiations are proceeding in Paris between M. Hanotaux, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Chinese Minister to France, regarding the demand made by France that China shall not cede any portion of the four provinces of Kuangtung, Kuangsi, Yunnan, and Kueichow, and that she shall allow the prolongation of the railway from Lungchow into Yunnan, and grant Leichow (north of Pakhoi) as a coaling station.

THE NEW LOAN.

The Chinese Loan has been issued in London and Berlin.

MEN-OF-WAR FOR THE FAR EAST.

In the Naval Debate the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, mentioned that eight battleships and cruisers, and eight torpedo boat destroyers, were building in English yards for Japan; and two vessels for China.

London, 22nd March.

THE INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Indian Budget shows a deficit of five crores and twenty-eight lacs of Rupees.

Exchange has been fixed at 1s. 3d. The Secretary of State for India will draw sixteen millions sterling, and will borrow six millions sterling in England and three crores of rupees in India.

London, 23rd March.

THE NEW ANGLO-GERMAN LOAN.

The Chinese Loan has been largely over-subscribed in Berlin. Nothing official has transpired in London.

A STEP-TOWARDS HOME RULE.

The Irish Local Government Bill has passed the second reading in the House of Commons;

London, 24th March.

THE FRENCH DEMANDS.

China has not yet formally replied to the demands made by France.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

A sharp engagement has taken place between an Egyptian cavalry patrol and Dervish horsemen near Atbara, in which the Dervishes were repulsed.

TO COME TO CHINA.

The battle-ship *Goliath* has been launched at Chatham.

THE CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Stoddart's closing match with Adelaide resulted in a draw.

London, 25th March.

THE NEW LOAN.

Only thirty per cent of the Chinese loan has been subscribed in England mainly owing to the political situation, but nevertheless the loan has been fully underwritten.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

Irrespective of the Maine disaster a strong feeling is growing in Washington in favour of American intervention in Cuba.

London, 26th March.

THE STRANDING OF THE CHINA.

The P. & O. Liner *China* is ashore near Perim and is full of water. It is probable that she will become a total loss. All the passengers have been landed.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY IS FOR PEACE.

President McKinley has informed the leaders of Congress that he is determined to uphold peace, if possible.

RUSSIA TRIUMPHANT.

A *Times*' telegram from Peking states that China has agreed to all the demands made by Russia.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

Oxford won by twelve lengths.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Tokio, 22nd March.

THE GENERAL ELECTION IN JAPAN.

The returns are now complete, and the Government has a working majority. The House meets in the first week of May.

Hongkong, 25th March.

WARSHIPS COMING NORTHWARD.

The Russian ironclads *Navarin* and *Ozoi Veliky* left this port yesterday, and H. M. S. *Barfleur* leaves to-day, it is supposed for Nagasaki.

Hongkong, 27th March.

The British fleet, with the exception of H. M. S. *Edgar*, is to leave Hongkong for the North on Wednesday.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN DISTURBANCES AT CHUNGKING. THE CONSULS' DEMANDS.

We are in receipt of a special telegram from our correspondent at Chungking supplementing the facts published a short time ago with regard

to the recent anti-foreign demonstration there, whereby a student was strangled and property belonging to the Methodist Mission at Kiangpeh destroyed. It states that the *Tuan* or country militia are now there in large force and refuse to allow the execution of the death-warrant of the murderer of the student. The Consuls have demanded of the Taotai that he disperse the militia, execute the murderers, arrest the leaders of the gentry who incited the riot, pay Tls. 500 for property destroyed, and allow the Mission to re-occupy the premises in question and also to protect them there.

THE Director of Sicauei Observatory reports: Monday, 21st March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 20th.*—The barometer is rising at Formosa and in Japan, while it is falling in China. A slight depression is passing in the valley of the Yangtze to the S. of Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 21st.*—Drizzling rain during the night. Very rapid rise of the barometer. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Unsettled and cold weather. Strong winds from N.W. to N.E. with rough weather along the entire coast.—Tuesday, 22nd March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 21st.*—Very high pressures over N. China and strong winds from the N. quadrant along the coast down to the Formosa Channel and over the Yangtze.—*State on the morning of the 22nd.*—Barometer above the average with overcast weather at Shanghai. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Unsettled and milder weather. Moderate monsoon in the S., and N.W. to S.E. breezes over the N. coast.—Wednesday, 23rd March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 22nd.*—The barometer is rising at all stations except in the North of China. Overcast weather in the evening. *State on the morning of the 23rd.*—Rain during the night. Calm weather and barometer on the decline. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Unsteady weather with intermittent rain. Moderate monsoon in the South and very variable breezes in the North.—Thursday, 24th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 23rd.*—The barometer falls in general in China and rises in the East of Japan. Overcast and cold weather with a little drizzling rain at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 24th.*—Calm and finer weather. The barometer continues to fall at Shanghai. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Fine and warm weather. Very variable weather with fog at places.—Friday, 25th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 24th.*—The barometer is still falling over China and the fall spreads towards Japan. Rather light monsoon in the South. Fine weather at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 25th.*—Fine weather. Barometer near the normal mean.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Variable weather, with symptoms of rain on account of a depression over the interior of China. Moderate to fresh N.E. to S.E. breezes along the entire coast.—Saturday, 26th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 25th.*—The barometer is rising in Japan. There must be a depression over the valley of the Yangtze, but all the telegrams from the interior and the N. of China are wanting. *State on the morning of the 26th.*—Showers during the night; the depression is passing close to Shanghai and the barometer is rapidly rising. Mild and damp weather.—Sunday, 27th March, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 26th.*—The depression is withdrawing between Japan and Corea. Interruption of the monsoon in the S. down to Amoy. Rapid rise of the barometer at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 27th.*—Overcast, calm and mild weather. Barometer a little above the

normal mean at Shanghai.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Variable, weather, liable to give a little rain. Moderate N. to N.E. monsoon along the entire coast.

THERE was again on Monday an intolerable fall in the thermometer. The maximum on Sunday was 63°·7, and on Monday 44°, a difference of nearly 20 degrees.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

		1898.		Rainfall in inches.
		Fahr.	Thermometer. Min. Max.	
Mar.	21	.....	39°·2 ... 44°·0	0.09
"	22	.....	33°·0 ... 48°·2	.....
"	23	.....	42°·5 ... 46°·2	0.37
"	24	.....	36°·6 ... 59°·4	.....
"	25	.....	40°·6 ... 58°·1	0.02
"	26	.....	51°·0 ... 63°·3	0.03
"	27	.....	43°·2 ... 49°·9	.....
		1897.		Rainfall in inches.
		Fahr.	Thermometer. Min. Max.	
Mar.	21	.....	34°·9 ... 46°·5	.....
"	22	.....	38°·3 ... 45°·5	0.02
"	23	.....	42°·5 ... 48°·0	0.47
"	24	.....	46°·0 ... 52°·8	1.28
"	25	.....	47°·5 ... 51°·1	0.06
"	26	.....	47°·0 ... 54°·0	0.29
"	27	.....	49°·8 ... 59°·7	0.11

The mission of H.E. Hsü Ching-chêng to St. Petersburg to arrange the Port Arthur question has been a failure, and the Chinese Emperor has now designated T.E. Li Hung-chang and Chang Yin-luan especially to confer with the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking on Russia's demands. The Ambassador Hsü having failed in moving the Russian Foreign Office, it is very doubtful whether T. E. Li and Chang will do better at Peking.

We learn that Mr. de Speyer, Russian Minister to Corea, has been recalled, and that his appointment to Peking has been cancelled.

OFFICIAL and private telegrams were received on Friday from Chefoo announcing that the Chinese were flocking in there from Port Arthur, a large number of them being soldiers dressed as coolies.

It has been suggested that the real object of Mr. de Speyer's self-denying dispatch to the Korean Government was to give that Government the opportunity to dismiss all foreigners in its employ, after which the Russians would come in again, free from any competition.

THE contract for the electric tramway between Machiapu, the terminus of the Tientsin railway, and the Yungting Gate at Peking, has been given to a German firm, and will be carried out with German material by Messrs. Siemens and Halske of Berlin.

AT Hêngchou in Hunan the soldiers took advantage the other day of a festival in honour of Longevity Buddha to pull down the chapel belonging to the London Mission, and carry off everything they could lay their hands on. No personal injury was done to anyone connected with the chapel.

NEWS has been received from Chinese sources in the North that, acting under alleged instructions from Peking, General Sung, the Commandant at Port Arthur, had already begun moving his heavy baggage, guns, etc., from that stronghold, as though he were on the point of giving it up to Russia.

It is confidently stated that H.E. the Taotai has received instructions from Nanking to turn over the control of the likin department in his circuit to the Imperial Maritime Customs, in accordance with the conditions of the new loan. We

are inclined to think that this statement is a little premature.

THERE is quite a large force of Chinese troops now at Woosung. Irrespective of the 2,600 men of the Tze-chiang Brigade drilled by German officers and the 4,000 native-drilled garrison hitherto stationed there, it is reported that there are now in and about the vicinity of the Woosung forts no less than from 7,000 to 8,000 more men under the command of General Li Chan-chun, the new acting Commander-in-Chief of this province, and more are said to be expected within the next six weeks.

A CORRESPONDENT at Kiukiang confirms in a note dated the 23rd inst., the news we lately gave as to the attitude of the Yangtze Valley Viceroy and Governors toward Peking. He says:—It is reported here that the Governor of Kiangsi in common with the other high officials of the Yangtze is disobeying the Emperor's orders to disband the provincial regiments, and they are on the contrary secretly enlisting troops on their own account.

A HANKOW telegram states that Russian agents are enlisting a lot of agriculturalists for the north for a period of five years and wages of \$15 per month to each volunteer agriculturist. It is also noted that so far over a hundred men from the agricultural districts near Wu-chang and Hanyang have signified their willingness to go to the north. There is some doubt, however, as to whether the "north" means Siberia or Manchuria.

AN official telegram from the Chinese gold mines at Muho, in the Amoor regions, reports that large bodies of Russians have crossed into Chinese territory, that it looks as if these troops were to be divided into three corps of from 12,000 to 15,000 men each, and that one of these corps would probably be encamped in the vicinity of the mines in question. Each corps is fitted out as if for a long march and comprises all three arms of the service.

OWING to the continued distress amongst the peasantry of the prefectures of Hsuan and Hsi-chou, in this province, which form a portion of what is colloquially known as Kiangpeh, Tsai Taotai of this port, in conjunction with his immediate subordinates, the prefect of Sungkiang, the marine sub-prefect of this port, and the Shanghai magistrate, have been lately in constant conference to devise ways and means for relieving the famine sufferers in order to enable them to be ready to sow their grain as soon as practicable. The various gentry and charitable associations of this city have also been asked to give the officials help in organising the proposed relief.

THE inauguration of the proposed income tax on rents referred to in these columns the other day, has, it appears, reached Soochow, but in a somewhat modified form. The Board of Revenue ordered an assessment on the rents of all hired houses, whether used as dwelling houses, shops, or godowns. The Provincial Treasurer Nieh, however, has only assessed rents paid for business houses, shops, and godowns, exempting hired residences from the tax. Further the burden of the assessment is to be divided equally between landlord and tenant, instead of being borne by the landlord only as provided in the instructions of the Central Government.

ACCORDING to dispatches received from Nanking, the Viceroy Liu received last week an Imperial edict by telegraph calling upon him to issue instructions to his subordinates in charge of tea, salt and other likin stations throughout his jurisdiction bordering on the coast and the River banks, to close all these establishments in order to enable the Inspectorate of Imperial Maritime Customs to take charge of that portion of the revenues also by the 1st day of the 4th moon of the present year, i.e., the 20th of May, 1898. As there is an inter-

calary 3rd moon this year, the disestablished likin officials will have some seven weeks given them to close their establishments—a veritable period of grace to some of them.

In our leading article on Saturday morning we said:—"What Russia asks for, China has to grant sooner or later." There is, therefore, nothing surprising in the news given us by Reuter this morning. Vigorous telegrams have been sent to the China Association in London on the subject by the branch here, for communication to the Foreign Office and the English Press, and this has been done. All depends now on the influence that dominates the British Foreign Office at the moment.

DR. L. S. Wilcox, the new U.S. Consul at Hankow, arrived here by the *Gaelic* and will shortly proceed up river to take up the duties of his post.

An interesting and important case which it is expected will involve almost as important points to the community as the famous Ince foreshore case, between Mr. H. Browett and the Municipal Council, is to be heard before the Court of Consuls, consisting of Dr. Stuebel, Senior Consul, Mr. John Goodnow, and Mr. Geo. Jamieson, on the 1st prox., in the German Court.

COMMANDER and Mme. Vela left on Saturday morning by the German mail for a holiday in Europe, which we hope will be a very enjoyable one, and their return will be eagerly looked forward to.

MR. P. H. S. Montgomery, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Soochow, has been appointed Commissioner at Yatang, Mr. H. E. Hobson, the present Commissioner, going home on leave.

THE Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Co. Ltd., will recommend at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 6th of April, the payment of a final dividend of 25 shillings per share, making, with the interim dividend paid in July, a total of £2 per share, yielding to Shanghai shareholders the sum of Tls. 15.70 per share for the year.

News was received here on Friday, confirmed by Reuter, that of the £8,000,000 offered in London of the latest Chinese loan, the public only applied for £2,000,000. We understand, however, that the remaining £6,000,000 have all been taken up by a syndicate, so that the underwriters will come out of it all right.

CAPTAIN GRATTAN, the acting agent of the China Mutual S.N. Co., Ltd., courteously advises us that he is in receipt of a cable from the Managing Director of the Company at London, informing him that a final dividend of 3 per cent upon the Preference shares, (which, together with the 3 per cent interim dividend already paid, makes 6 per cent per annum), and a dividend of 6 per cent upon the Ordinary shares have been declared for the year ending 31st December, 1897. Both dividends are payable on the 31st instant, and the Shanghai Books will be closed for transfers from the 28th to the 31st current, inclusive.

OUR friends on the Customs staff whose bitter cry we have published, while it is still officially pigeon-holed at Peking, and who have had all the post office work added to their labours without any additional pay, may comfort themselves with the hope that the Inspector-General intends to make the assumption of the collection of likin the opportunity for a general readjustment of their now inadequate salaries.

OUR correspondent writes, under date the 24th inst.: "At Kiukiang some persons have just purchased more than 1,000 buffaloes. These are said to be for the Germans at Shantung. Others say they are purchased for war purposes."

THE stock, goodwill, and fixtures of the *Shanghai Daily Press* were sold by auction

by Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. on Tuesday morning. The whole was sold in one lot, and was knocked down to Mr. Thos. Kingsmill, the price realised being Tls. 10,100.

THE *Kiangning* was sold by public auction by Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn & Co., on Friday afternoon. The bidding commenced at Tls. 5,000 and was fairly spirited, the vessel being finally knocked down to Mr. J. Prentice (Messrs. Boyd & Co.) for Tls. 10,000.

THE victory of Oxford in the University Boat Race gives the Dark Blues a record of nine consecutive wins. This year's race is the 55th that has been rowed between the two Universities, Oxford having won 32 and Cambridge 22, the contest of 1877 being a dead heat.

SHORTLY before half-past five on Monday morning a fire, caused by the accidental upsetting of a kerosene lamp, broke out in a native dwelling house in the Dongka-long, North Shansu Road. The firemen experienced some little difficulty in finding the location of the outbreak, but once on the spot they soon had control of the flames, and by six o'clock most of them were able to leave. Three small houses were totally destroyed, and two others damaged by fire and water. The property was owned by Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons and Co. and was fully insured, but there was no insurance on the contents.

AT about 3 o'clock on Friday morning, a fire broke out in the native city in the neighbourhood of the Taotai's *Yamen* which lasted for some time resulting in the destruction of some twenty houses.

THE body of Charles Ernhold, concerning whose death by drowning an enquiry was held at the U.S. Consulate-General on the 22nd ult., was picked up near the Yangtzeppoo Creek on Wednesday. As the body bore no marks of violence, an order for burial was issued by Mr. Goodnow, and it was interred at the Pootung Cemetery on Thursday afternoon.

M. E. L. MONDON has on view at his store the first automobile tricycle imported to Shanghai. It is a very compact and neat machine differing very little from the ordinary tricycle, except that it is much heavier and stronger. The machine is worked by a 1½ horse-power petroleum motor, and is capable of attaining a speed of about 25 miles an hour. The motor is a neat contrivance, weighing only 24 kilos., the weight of the whole machine being about 175 lbs. It works without any noise or smell, the only indication of the motive power being a slight escape of vapour at the start. M. Mondon informs us that he intends to raffle two of the new automobile tricycles; 650 chances will be issued, at \$5 each. The frames of these machines are practically the same as the ordinary ones, except that they are considerably stronger, especially at the fore fork. The speed attained requires exceptional stability and to this end the diameter of the wheels is reduced to 65 centimetres, thus lowering the centre of gravity. Under the seat is an oil tank, used as a carburetor, containing 3 litres of gasoline, sufficient to run about 80 kilometres. A mixture of oil vapour and air is introduced into the cylinder of the motor, and is ignited by an electric spark generated by dry cells with the assistance of induction coils. The crank and momentum balance are contained in an aluminium case containing oil, thus ensuring perfect lubrication of these parts. The hill climbing powers claimed for these machines is far in excess of anything that would be required in this part of the world. A hill with a slope of 8 degrees can be negotiated without the help of the pedals and one of 12 degrees with very little, just sufficient to keep up the ordinary speed of the motor. They are fitted with ample brake power.

WE have received a prospectus of the issue by the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., of 6 per cent debentures of Tls. 100 each to the extent of Tls. 250,000. They are secured and are a first charge on the present fleet (exclusive of the steamer *Sultan*) and property of the company, which are valued at nearly Tls. 1,000,000. The issued capital of the company is Tls. 430,000, and the reserves amount to over Tls. 300,000.

THE *Echo de Chine* has been fortunate enough to obtain an early copy of the address which our Chungking correspondents mentioned was to be presented to Mr. Archibald J. Little by the foreign residents of Chungking on his arrival there with the pioneer steamer *Leechuan*. It is as follows: ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION AND WELCOME PRESENTED TO ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE, ESQ., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ARRIVAL WITH THE FIRST STEAMER IN THE PORT OF CHUNGKING.

ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE, Esq.,

DEAR SIR.—We, the undersigned, residing in the city of Chungking, desire to offer you our hearty congratulations on this auspicious occasion, when we have the great gratification of welcoming your arrival here with the first Steam Vessel to ascend the Upper Yangtze.

We desire to make this public acknowledgment of your unflagging perseverance, through many years, and praiseworthy determination to bring a steamer to this City in spite of the obstacles, which have been pronounced by some to be insurmountable, and we rejoice with you in the present accomplishment of the aim which you have so long had in view.

We the more heartily do this because, in addition to the advantages which Steam Navigation on the Upper Yangtze may bring to foreign residents in this great Western Port, we believe, eventually, lasting benefits will also thereby accrue to the general native population in these interior Provinces.

We would, therefore, once more offer to yourself and to Mrs. Little, the sympathetic companion of your present successful voyage up river, now so happily accomplished, our most hearty and united congratulations, with the expression of the hope that you may live many years to see great development in the Steam Navigation of the Upper Yangtze, which you have always indefatigably advocated; while to yourself alone will always remain the honour of having brought the first steamer into the Port of Chungking.

THE second *matinée* of *Cinderella* for children of all ages, being the seventh performance of the pantomime, came off on Tuesday afternoon before a house again crowded, fully three-quarters of the audience being children. Every one on the stage, from the tallest giant-captive of Jack to the tiniest fairy, played his part as if he enjoyed it and wanted every child present to enjoy it; and so they did. The hum of approbation, the ripple of laughter, the approximation of tiny palms, went on without ceasing. It was another triumph. After the curtain fell nearly the whole company adjourned to the Astor Hall, where a dinner was given, followed by a dance. Over a hundred and twenty sat down to the dinner, Mr. R. W. Little being in the chair, with *Cinderella* on his right and Mlle. Ondine on his left. A large majority of those present were in their costumes, and the spectacles was a charming one. After the toasts of "The Ladies" and "Mr. Wingrove" had been enthusiastically honoured, two flash light photographs were taken, the whole company being grouped on and below the stage, after which a programme of several dances was gone through with great spirit and enjoyment.

ANOTHER crowded house to see the pantomime on Friday night, and another triumphant success. In the first interval Tsai

Taotai came behind the scenes and was presented to all the fair performers, to whom he distributed presents. There is still such a demand for seats that an extra performance, positively the last, is to be given on Tuesday next at 8.30 p.m.

The usual parade of the S.V.C. took place on Saturday afternoon. There was a very good muster of all ranks, and the men were marched out to the Race Course, where the usual movements were gone through. The annual church parade of the Corps took place yesterday morning, there being a very full attendance. The bulk of the men attended service at the Cathedral, where a special sermon on "The Shield of Faith," was preached by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Moule. A number of men marched, headed by the Town Band, to St. Joseph's Church, marching back to the Bund after service, with the French Company, where the whole were dismissed. Some 66 members of the French Company were present, under the command of Captain Bard, and in their neat and serviceable uniforms they looked uncommonly well.

Mr. ROBERT BROUGH of the Brough Comedy Co. writes us that the Company's season in Hongkong has been extremely satisfactory. As already mentioned, the company is to leave Hongkong for Shanghai in the *Verona* on Friday next, and to obviate any possibility of their not appearing here on the date appointed, through late arrival of the steamer, all the scenery and appointments for the opening production, *Sowing the Wind*, were sent on in the *Manila*, which left Hongkong on the 24th inst.

We have great satisfaction in telling our readers that there is no longer any cause for anxiety regarding Mr. Gladstone's health. The latest telegrams state that he is steadily improving, and the bulletins regarding his health have been discontinued.

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART is so disposing of his troops as to facilitate a forward movement towards the end of the month if the Afridis have not submitted in the interval. Brigadier-General Hamilton's brigade has moved from Bara to a short distance beyond Barkai: thus giving the 2nd division a more advanced base in the lower Bara Valley.

The *Afridis* have now only a few days left in which to make up their minds to accept the Government terms, as the period of grace expires on the 23rd instant. The majority of the Maliks are said to be in favour of a peaceful settlement, but a strong war party still exists among the *Zakka Khels*. Every effort is being made by Sir William Lockhart to have a large stock of supplies pushed forward, so as to secure rapidity of movement next week if the campaign has to be continued.

News comes from Delhi of alarm having been caused there on account of the publication of the plague regulations, and that public meetings and meetings of communities are being held in various quarters of the ancient city, proposing modifications suited to the conditions and customs of the people and requesting the Government to sanction them.

RESIDENTS in the Settlement will do well to remember that the Council's new regulations as to the provision of garbage boxes become compulsory on the 1st of April. The thieves who prowled about the streets have already turned their attention to these valuable receptacles and have acquired some of them on easy terms. In one case an innocent wheelbarrow-man came along, and seeing an iron box full of garbage in the gutter, said to himself: "How wasteful foreigners are to throw away a good box like this!" So he emptied the garbage out, and put the box on his wheelbarrow and wheeled it gaily away. This box was recovered, the man having really no intention of stealing it. But as

others have been wilfully stolen, it would be well for householders to have their names engraved on their precious caskets, so that they may be identified if they are lost. The blessings of all who use the streets will rest on the Council if the new regulation is strictly enforced. The ordinary Chinese house-coolie likes to empty the garbage some time between 10 a.m. and noon, or even in the afternoon, into the gutter, where the wheels of carriages and richas scatter it about, and the wind blows the lighter particles over the passer-by. This, it is hoped, will now be a thing of the past.

H.M.S. *Daphne* arrived here on Friday to relieve H.M.S. *Pique*, which leaves immediately, probably to join the Admiral. The *Daphne* left Chemulpo on Wednesday last. When she left H.M. ships *Undaunted* and *Phenix*, the Russian gunboat *Mandjour*, and a Japanese cruiser were in port. H.M.S. *Pigmy* was to leave Hankow for Shanghai on Friday. The *Pigmy* arrived at Woosung yesterday, and she is leaving this afternoon with the *Pique* and *Daphne*, under sealed orders. It is supposed that they are going to Chusan.

H.M.S. *Pique* left the Senior Naval Officer's buoy yesterday for Woosung, there to await further orders.

THE N.Y.K. Transpacific steamer *Riojun Maru* arrived at Yokohama from Seattle on the 21st inst., and all her cargo for this port was transhipped into the s.s. *Nagato Maru*, which is due here on the 30th inst.

The pioneer steamer of the Hamburg American Line, the *Andalusia*, left Hongkong for Shanghai on Wednesday night.

H.M.S. *Algerine* arrived at Hankow on the 23rd inst.

THE R. M. S. *Empress of China* which, owing to bad weather, did not leave Tungsha till 11 a.m., on Monday, arrived at Hongkong on Wednesday at 7.30 a.m., making the passage down in 44½ hours from Tungsha.

THE M.M. steamer *Salazie*, with the French mail of the 26th of February, left Singapore for Shanghai on Sunday at 10 a.m.

THE P. & O. s.s. *Manila* left Hongkong at noon on Thursday for this port with 15 chests of Bengal opium on board, and arrived last night.

THE *Verona*, with the incoming English mail, left Singapore at 3 p.m. yesterday for Hongkong and Shanghai.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Belgie* arrived at San Francisco on the 22nd inst.

THE R. M. S. *Empress of Japan* left Yokohama for Vancouver on Friday afternoon.

THE *El Dorado*, which arrived from Tientsin and Chefoo on Thursday, brought down a mob of 46 griffins. When she left Chefoo H.M. ships *Powerful*, *Grafton*, and *Narcissus* were there.

We have received the March issue of that inestimable paper, the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao*, now edited by the Rev. Timothy Richard, and published by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese.

We have received from the Statistical Department of the I.M. Customs the *Returns of Trade and Reports for the Year 1897, Part I.—Report of the Trade of China and Abstract of Statistics*. It contains a very careful and readable report by Mr. F. E. Taylor on the Foreign Trade of China for 1897, and the usual statistics. It will be seen that the percentages of the total foreign and coast trade in 1897 were

British	53.27 per cent.
Chinese	34.10 "
All other flags	12.63 "
	100.00

We have received the first number of *The Sculptor*, a sixpenny monthly journal,

edited by Henry Rose, excellently printed by Unwin Bros., and published in London. Its aim is "to give effective journalistic representation to the sculptor's art," an art which is the most neglected in England of all the liberal arts. It is well illustrated with reproductions of photographs of sculpture and portraits of sculptors, and the supplement is a full-page reproduction of a statue of the Queen by Professor Nicoli, presented to the town of Brighton by the Mayor, Sir J. G. Blaker.

At the Mixed Court on Monday a man was charged with being concerned with others not in custody in stealing a silver watch, value \$7, from the person of a man at Li Hongkew, and with cutting and wounding him with a knife, on the 11th inst. He was sentenced to receive 1,000 blows, and to undergo two years' imprisonment. Another man, who was charged with being concerned in the robbery of the watch, was given 500 blows and a year's imprisonment. A man with previous convictions against him was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for attempting to pass bad dollars.

We have received the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 19th inst.:—H.M.S. *Rattler* reached Tangku on the 16th. The *Shengking* then started for the Tientsin bund, but stuck in the North-west Reach.—The steamers were getting away at the rate of two a day, and there was no more fear of the river being closed.—There was a surprising shower of mud, caused by a rain-cloud colliding with a dust-storm, at Shanhaikuan on the 15th.—The concert given at Tientsin by Messrs. Twinning and Morse was a great success.

THE P. & T. Times translates the following from the very well-informed *Kuo-wen-pao*:—

"Russia has demanded from the Chinese Government the right to lease Port Arthur and Talienwan and to construct railways from Kirin, through Moukden to Port Arthur. The Chinese Government knowing that even these concessions would not satisfy the greed of Russia, have refused their consent. Meanwhile they have sent instructions to General Sung at Port Arthur to raise an additional force of 5,000 men, and have sent an envoy, Shu Chu-yuen, from Berlin to St. Petersburg to arrange matters there. The Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* gave the Government five days to reply, but at the special request of the Chinese Government has extended the time to the 26th inst. If no reply is forthcoming by that date, Russia, he says, will resort to force. The British Minister has advised the Tsungli Yamèn not to reply hastily or incautiously, as the Russian request is a very serious one. If the demands of Russia are conceded, the power of that country will become excessive and other Powers cannot be expected to submit to this. Prince Kung then solicited the help of England, and Sir Cluude Macdonald promised it. Ultimately a telegram was sent by the British Minister to his Government conveying China's request, and to the British Ambassador in St. Petersburg asking him to give the Chinese Envoy every assistance."

We have received Hongkong papers to the 22nd inst.—News has been received by wire of the loss by stranding of the American ship *New York*, which left Hongkong for San Francisco on the 14th of January.—The Brough Comedy Company were continuing their triumphant career.—The correspondent of the *China Mail* at Manila thinks it will be much more difficult to crush the present rebellion than the last.—Prince Henry of Prussia was to leave Hongkong for Canton on the 17th.—M. Bons d'Anty has been appointed French Consul at Canton, and is succeeded at Szemao by M. Sainson.—The British North Borneo Co. are going to plant 200 acres in tea.—The Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij's steamer *Gou*

verrier General Loudon, 1,206 tons, 187 h.-p., built at Greenock in 1875, has been totally lost off the coast of Celebes. All on board were saved. She plied between Singapore and the Moluccas ports.—The absence of rain is causing a scarcity of rice in Kuangtung.—Prince Waldemar of Denmark is expected at Bangkok in command of the Danish warship, the *Fyn*.—The *China Mail* has been publishing a very interesting series of articles by Mr. W. F. Wenyon, who has a unique knowledge of South China, on the North River by which access is obtained to an immense body of good coal.—Acting on information obtained, a party of Spanish soldiers have captured, on a mountain in Angat, 10 guns and 1,000 cartridges belonging to the rebels in the Philippines.—H.M.S. *Edgar* reported all quiet at Bolinao, the telegraph station being well guarded by Spanish soldiers.—The *Hongkong Telegraph* says that Dr. Bedloe, U.S. Consul at Canton, has been notified of the abolition of the *lo-ti-shui*, or destination tax, on kerosene.—The French cruiser *Duguay Trouin* arrived at Manila on the 13th from Peru and Honolulu.—The cable which now lands at Bolinao is to be extended to Manila. The land communication between these two points is now restored, but the line works slowly.—The match between the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Navy, played on the 19th and 21st, resulted in a win for the Club by 10 wickets. The Navy made 89 and 96, and the Club 171 (G. D. Campbell 81 not-out) and 16.—The *Andalusia* brought out 450 tons of explosives for the German fleet.—Shipmasters are advised to keep a smart look-out for a large tree, which Capt. Webb of the *Cheang Chew* found cruising about in Lat. 10.25.30 N. and Long. 110.38.30 E.—The *Jean Bart* left Saigon on the 10th for the China Sea, and was to be followed by the *Pascal* on the 15th.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—We translate the following from the *Courrier d'Haiphong* of the 12th of March:—The steamer *Mathilde* arrived on Thursday morning from Hongkong having on her bill of health a note by the French Consul mentioning that a few isolated cases of plague, not epidemic, had occurred at Hongkong. By order of the Principal Medical Officer the vessel was placed in quarantine. She had on board, besides a full cargo of general merchandise and sheep, a hundred and thirty-eight Chinese, of whom eleven were for Haiphong and a hundred and twenty-seven for the Kebao mines. The Medical Officer required that these Chinese should be interned in the lazarette, where they were to be kept under observation for four days. The discharge of the cargo having been forbidden by the same order, Messrs. Speidel and Co., the consignees of the *Mathilde*, protested, and declared that if the order was enforced they would suspend all business between Haiphong and Hongkong. In consequence of this the authorities gave instructions that free pratique was to be granted as regards the sheep and merchandise of all descriptions. It will be remembered that plague is endemic at Hongkong and that in 1894, in consequence of an unfortunate application of sanitary regulations at Haiphong, made contrary to the interests of trade, by the Principal Medical Officer, there was a diminution in the Customs receipts of about three hundred thousand dollars. In the present year, which has opened badly, we do not want our poor budget to be subjected to similar losses.

We have already mentioned that the last incoming French mail steamer *Ernest Simons* was delayed by having to tow the German steamer *Cosmopolit*. The *Hongkong Telegraph* of the 19th says:—

The German steamer *Cosmopolit*, which left Hongkong for Kobe last Saturday, had a bad accident in the Formosa Channel, on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Her cylinder cover blew off bodily. Fortu-

nately nobody was seriously hurt, as far as we have been able to ascertain; but the vessel was completely disabled. After a while she was picked up by the French mail steamer *Ernest Simons*, a little south of Chapel Island. The mail boat was bound from Hongkong to Shanghai, and in response to signals of distress offered to tow the *Cosmopolit* into Amoy. This was only a short distance, but the weather was so rough that the tow-line tore away the *Cosmopolit's* winch. Then the hawser was made fast to the foremast—and carried that away too! Fearful of fetching up the *Cosmopolit's* keel by the roots at the next attempt, the mail-boat fled the scene and made the best speed she could for Shanghai, while the remnant of the German ship anchored outside Amoy till tug-boats came out and brought her in tenderly. She still has her funnel and mainmast, and some of her deck gear.

We can understand the *Ernest Simons* leaving the *Cosmopolit*; it would have been very inconvenient for a French liner to incur the charge of pulling a German steamer to pieces.

DURING last year the Mysore Gold Mining Company distributed three dividends equal to 100 per cent on the nominal capital, and since its formation, seven years before, it has distributed dividends of between four hundred and five hundred per cent. The Champion Reef Company during 1896 paid 67½ per cent, the Oregum Company paid thirty per cent to ordinary, and forty per cent to preference shareholders, and Nundydroog 32½ per cent, figures which show that the investors in these Indian companies have had no reason to complain.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

FROM Australian telegrams quoted in the Hongkong papers we learn that the Russian Government were negotiating with the Porte for the passage through the Bosphorus of an ironclad which it is desired to send to China.—The steamer *Clara Nevada*, with returned Klondykers for Seattle, has foundered off the coast of Alaska, all on board being lost.—While Lord Salisbury and Lord William Cecil were driving at Hatfield, the wind blew an iron gate against their carriage, which was wrecked, but Lord Salisbury escaped without injury.—President Krüger has dismissed Chief Justice Kotze from office, because he has not been sufficiently submissive.—It is reported that China has asked for an English officer to organise a special force of 6,000 men for the defence of Peking.—A telegram of the 16th ult. says:—

Reuter's correspondent at Peking asserts that it has been found that the secret treaty between Russia and China does not prevent China borrowing abroad for the purpose of constructing the Manchurian railway, and it is said that the Czar is indignant at the discovery.

It is further stated that the Chinese delegate at St. Petersburg had been instructed to negotiate with Russia on the matter of railway construction only, and the Russian Ambassador to China was wrongly informed that the question of a loan was to be included in the negotiations.

We have received Japan papers with dates from Tokio to the 20th, Yokohama the 21st, Kobe the 23rd, and Nagasaki the 25th inst.—The Japanese who killed a British sailor at Yokohama last September by hitting him on the head with a bar of wood has been sentenced to nine months' major imprisonment with hard labour.—Of the *Toyoko Kison Kaisha's* three new 6,000-ton Trans-Pacific steamers, the *America Maru* has been launched in England, and the *Nippon Maru* and *Hongkong Maru* are being pushed forward.—The new sailing vessel *Tenryu Maru* capsized while on her trial trip near Kinoye and eleven people were drowned.—Japan has quarantined Hongkong on the report of the plague having re-appeared there.—The steamer *Koyeki*

Maru stranded on a shoal off Funakawa on the 13th and foundered. No lives were lost.—Marquis Saigo, the Naval Minister, has suffered a serious relapse.—Mr. von Krencki, German Consul at Kobe, has been made a Knight Commander of the Crown by King Humbert.—There were two British and two Russian cruisers in Nagasaki on the 19th.—The *Japan Mail* says: "Speaking frankly, how many persons believe that Russia's declarations about making free ports in Liaotung Peninsula are sincere, or may be relied on? The memory of Batoum is indelible."—The Oil Refinery at Otaru was burnt down on the 15th.—The Chinese Court at Peking is reported to be looking to Japan for assistance in the present crisis.—The new Franco-Japanese treaty has been ratified by the Emperor.—A girl of 14 was burnt to death in a fire at Kobe on the 19th.—The Japanese standing squadron will leave Kure early in May for Korean or Chinese waters.—The only men-of-war at Nagasaki on the 21st were the Russian cruisers *Dimitri Donakoi* and *Rosia*.—At least seven Japanese lost their lives in the Maine disaster.—The *Japan Mail* has always ridiculed the Cassini Convention, and it returns to the subject in its issue of the 21st inst. It is perfectly welcome to its opinion, though it is an opinion that says little for its intelligence, but when it states, as it does, "The fact is that the 'Cassini Convention' is a pure myth," it states what is not true, and what it could not possibly know to be true. All the difficulties it mentions in its issue of the 21st disappear when it is remembered that it was intended to be a secret convention, whose existence Russia formally denied, and that it was understood that when Russia pressed for its execution, China was to plead *force majeure*, if other Powers objected.—The *Japan Mail* regards the recent French demands as "a deliberate attempt, in combination with Russia, to strike a heavy blow at British interests in China."—The *Koyeki Maru*, 214 tons, foundered off the coast of Funakawa on the 14th.—The *Akitsuishima Kan* was leaving for the Bonin Islands to search for the missing vessel *Taiwan Maru*.—A large portion of the cargo of the steamer *Cromarty*, stranded on the Azores, has been salvaged.—It was rumoured that the U.S. Government was trying to buy from Japan the two cruisers being constructed for that country in the States.—The Japanese Government has chartered several steamers for transport purposes.—A house on the Waterfall Road, Kobe, occupied by Mr. Marx Lossmann, of the China Export, Import, and Banking Compagnie, was entirely burnt on the 21st. Mr. Lossmann was insured for 3,000 yen in the London Assurance.—The N.Y.K. steamer *Toyoshima Maru*, from Corea, which went to the assistance of a small steamer that had stranded in the Inland Sea, struck a rock herself, and had to be beached, on the 22nd.

The *Kobe Chronicle* has the following telegram from a Japanese paper:—

Seoul, 15th March.

In compliance with the tenour of the reply to the Russian Minister that all foreign instructors and advisers shall be dispensed with, the Korean Government has notified to Colonel Nienstead, the American military adviser, that his services are no longer required.

Peking, 16th March.

It is reported that the Chinese Minister for War has addressed a representation to the Throne asking for Imperial instructions as to the course to be pursued should Russia attempt to obtain her demands by force of arms. The Emperor has replied that in such case nothing can be done to resist Russia, but he instructed that the concessions should be minimised as much as possible.

Under the circumstances, it is believed that China will accede to the construction

of railways through Manchuria and to the lease of Talienwan, but will endeavour to retain Port Arthur in her own hands.

It is said that China is beginning to look to Japan for assistance.

Taipei, 16th March.

An encounter took place on the 14th inst. between Japanese troops and the rebels in the vicinity of Kosan, Taipei prefecture. Ten Japanese were killed, including Paymaster Kadowaki and Mr. Tsutsumi, a second-class secretary.

Tokio, 17th March.

It is reported that a telegram has been received by a foreign firm at Yokohama, stating that an outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain was unavoidable. Information is said to have reached an American merchant resident at Yokohama that proof has been obtained that the Maine disaster was not due to an accident. Three days previous to the occurrence, an American officer received a piece of paper from a Spanish friend on which was written in pencil, "Beware of the day after to-morrow." The slip of paper was preserved by the wife of the officer, who was on shore on the day of the disaster and escaped.

A notification of the Home Department has been issued announcing that owing to the outbreak of bubonic plague at Hong-kong, all the vessels coming from Hong-kong and Chinese ports will on and after the 17th inst. be subjected to medical inspection at Yokohama, Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki, and Kuchinotsu. With the exception of Nagasaki and Kobe, the vessels coming to the other open and special foreign ports are to be inspected at the nearest quarantine stations thereto.

The Naval Court held to inquire into the *Fuso* disaster, has found that Captain Hirao of the *Idzushima* was in no way responsible for the collision. The judgment in the case of Captain Urin (of the *Fuso*) will be announced in a few days.

Seoul, 17th March.

The Russian Minister has now replied to the answer of the Korean Government to the Note respecting the Financial Adviser and military instructors. Russia informs Korea that in lending advisers and military instructors, the intention was simply to show favour and good will, and Russia is glad to learn that Korea can now maintain her independence without this assistance. Such being the case, Russia will withdraw the advisers and instructors sent to Korea.

18th March.

M. Alexieff has returned the portfolio of his office to-day.

The Russian military instructors are preparing to leave Seoul for Port Arthur.

Tokio, 19th March.

Prince Konoye Tadairo, who was recently attacked by influenza, expired at 10.40 p.m. yesterday.

At a meeting of the Privy Council yesterday, the Revised Treaty with Austria-Hungary was considered, and one or two of the councillors opposed certain provisions. Count Kuroda, the President of the Privy Council, has laid the views of the opponents before the Emperor and Marquis Ito.

Seoul, 19th March.

The Korean Government recently decided to dispatch Kim Kei-ko to Russia to tender thanks to the Russian Government for the assistance rendered to Korea, but the Russian Minister has informed the Korean Government that an Ambassador need not be sent to Russia for any such purpose.

20th March.

Five Russian officers, one surgeon, and 24 privates are to leave Seoul for Port Arthur.

Tokio, 22nd March.

The Cabinet Council has approved the Budget drawn up by Count Inouye, the Financial Minister, and it has been laid

before the Emperor. His Majesty put several questions to Count Inouye, who entered into full explanations.

Shizuoka, 22nd March.

On the 20th inst. some of the officers of the *Yayeyama* had a quarrel in a tea-house here. One of the officers was killed and another severely injured. The names are kept secret.

The Japan Mail of the 15th translates the following from the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*:

—The vessels of the Japanese fleet are at present distributed as follows:—At Yokosuka, the *Chinto*, *Yayeyama*, *Kongo*, *Amaki*, *Heiyen*, *Yashima*, *Yoshino*, *Tatsuta*, *Naniwa*, *Iwaki*, *Fuji*, *Matsushima*, *Akitsumi*, *Chinyen*, *Hashidate*, and *Atago*; at Yokohama, the *Idzushima*; at Nagahama, the *Fuso*; at Kure, the *Chinken*; *Tateyama*, *Hiyei*, *Chinhoku*, *Chiyoda*, *Chincho*, and *Tenriu*; at Tateyama, the *Musashi*; at Yedajima, the *Hoo*; at Saseho, the *Chinnan*, *Chisai*, *Manju*, *Oshima*, *Binsho*, *Kaimon*, *Takachiho*, *Saiyen*, and *Yamata*; at Tamsui, the *Soko*; at Kelung, the *Katsuragi*; at Mokubo, the *Maya*; at Shanghai, the *Tsukushi*; at Tokō, the *Akagi*; at Hakubyo, the *Chokai*; and at Shingawa, the *Tsukuba*.

The Kobe Chronicle says:—The German ship *Erik Rickmers*, Capt. Wurthmann, has made a record passage from Philadelphia to Kobe. She left Philadelphia for Kobe on November the 3rd, and arrived here on the 6th of March, thus making the passage to Kobe around Australia in 123 days. The German barque *Pisagua*, Capt. C. Bahlke, has also made an excellent passage to Kobe. She left Philadelphia for Kobe, taking the route around Australia, on November the 2nd and arrived here on the 13th inst., making the passage in 131 days. The *Erik Rickmers* is a ship of 1,999 tons, and the *Pisagua* a barque of 2,763 tons. The average passage to Japan around Australia during the winter season (from October to April) in the last 14 years is about 170 days.

Under the heading "The Russians in Korea," the *Japan Mail* says:—

The *Novoye Vremya*, of St. Petersburg, as translated for an American journal, writes thus:—

"The Korean troops number only 6,000. The former teachers of this little army were Americans and Japanese, who had no interest in raising its efficiency. They were satisfied to draw their pay, and glad that the Koreans did not ask them to do more. Since October last, however, Russian officers and non-commissioned officers have been appointed under Colonel Pinjata, and a new spirit has come over the soldiers. When the first gymnastic apparatus was put up, the Minister of War refused to supply the necessary ropes. He feared that the Russians were about to torture his men. The Koreans are not fond of exercise, and many left the army, despite the good pay offered them, when they were shown the use of the apparatus. Now, however, they begin to like their work. The Sintatai, the life-guards, are going through their athletic exercise as well as if they were Germans, and the Korean officers are so well satisfied that they threaten to leave if the Russians are dismissed. The soldiers are now well fed, and as, in the opinion of the Koreans, bravery is the result of a full stomach only they are no longer afraid of the Japanese. The American advisers of the King will now soon be sent out of the country, as they are no longer of service. The Japanese, of course, do not like this Russian influence; they fear that it will make their struggle for the possession of Korea difficult.

"A Russian school has been opened in Seoul, where instruction is given free. The pupils are boarded free, too. There are twenty-nine of them, between the ages of thirteen and thirty-five. Like all Koreans, the pupils take a lively interest in politics. Whenever Russia

shows energy, the study of Russian is pursued more actively; if Russia seems to lose her influence, the Russian language is neglected. The English school is very much frequented, for English is necessary, as yet, in the postal and telegraph services, in the custom-house, and in trade. Russian is learned by the Koreans in view of coming events. Russia's enemies in Korea, the Americans and the Japanese, have command of much money, and it could be wished that Russia would take care to extend systematically the work begun in her interest."

The Russian journal supposes Japan to be "struggling for the possession of Korea." It is an idle supposition, in our opinion. The Japanese are a kind of bugbear to some folks at present, and perhaps it is in their interest that they should bear that character, but there is good reason to doubt whether they have risen quite to the heights of ambition on which the imagination of their critics places them.

The following is the finding of the Naval Court of Enquiry, held at the British Consulate, Yokohama, into the recent collision between the P. & O. steamer *Borneo* and the Japanese steamer *Wayo Maru*:

After a prelude setting forth the circumstances brought out by the evidence produced, the Court found that the prime cause of the collision was, that the other vessel (the *Wayo Maru*) attempted to enter the harbour in the direction in which she did, at a high rate of speed, while the *Borneo* was confined by the shipping and the breakwater in getting out of the harbour.

The master of the *Borneo*, Fitzhugh C. A. Lyon, appears to have navigated the vessel in a seamanlike manner and when a casualty was inevitable to have done everything in his power to mitigate it. The conduct of the officers and crew appears to have been satisfactory and proper discipline maintained. The expenses of the Court were fixed at £16.4.9, which were approved and must be paid by the master, F. C. A. Lyon, as one of the parties thereto.

The Seoul Independent of the 8th instant says:—

The s.s. *Chungrion* brings news of a rising in Quelpart against the Governor. When the steamer arrived at the port of Quelpart a large disorderly crowd assembled at the shore and as no boat put off to the steamer a gig was lowered to take the few passengers on shore. When the boat neared, the landing the mob ordered the boat to approach, saying they had some questions to ask. Seeing the aggressive attitude of the crowd, the second officer who was in charge of the boat thought it most prudent to put back for the steamer, and one of the passengers swam ashore. The others preferred to go to Mokpo.

After a while a boat approaching the steamer from another direction caused a great turmoil amongst the crowd. They hurriedly put out boats to intercept this boat, but failing turned back. The Assistant Governor or second official of the island was on board and said the people had risen and attacked the Governor and he could not say whether he is still alive or not.

The captain seeing that there was no prospect of getting any freight or more passengers left the island.

The Assistant Governor will go to Seoul to report the matter and get troops to quell the rising.

TONGKING papers announce that the Banque de l'Indo-Chine is about to open a branch in Shanghai; that M. Rocher, Consul, so well-known in China for many years, is appointed to Liverpool; and that two French Commissions are to travel in Yunnan, surveying routes for the new railway, one by way of Mêngtze, Chienchang, Yunnanfu, and Wutingchou to the Yangtze, the other by Caobang, Kuangnanfu, and thence by M. Rocher's route in 1871 to the Yangtze; and the two commissions return

together by a third route parallel to the two first-mentioned.

A TELEGRAM in a Tongking paper mentions that Queen Victoria embarked at Portsmouth at noon on the 11th instant, for Cherbourg, on her way to the Riviera.

In mentioning the departure from Europe of Bishop Anzer of Shantung, the *Straits Times* adds that it is to his advice that the Chinese owe the seizure by Germany of Kiaochow Bay.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that the *Yaroslavl*, a steamship belonging to the Russian Volunteer Fleet, which was recently transporting several hundred convicts to the penal settlement in Saghalien, had a narrow escape from falling into the possession of these criminals, who had formed a plot for the massacre of the officers and crew, with the exception of the commander, whom they intended to spare in order that he might navigate the vessel to within sight of the Japanese coast, where they intended to kill him, too, before landing and making good their escape. The plot was, however, discovered in good time, owing to the disclosures made by one of the convicts, who had refused to take part in it.

THE *Westminster Budget* says:—The Empress Frederick and her son the Emperor William are now on excellent terms, and her Majesty has taken a very prominent part in all the Court and State functions at Berlin during the last month. At the banquet which followed the Chapter of the Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, the Empress and her eldest son sat together in the place of honour under a canopy of Imperial purple. At the Emperor's birthday banquet (when the reigning Empress made her first appearance at Court since her illness) his Majesty conducted the Queen of Saxony, while King Albert entered with the Empress, and the King of Württemberg came in with the Empress Frederick, who had discarded her deep mourning for the first time since the death of the Emperor William I. She was dressed in grey satin, with exquisite lace and magnificent pearls and diamonds. The Empress Frederick wore the Order of Louise of Prussia and St. Catherine of Russia, with the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family Order. The Empress Frederick will come to England on a visit to the Queen when she leaves Berlin, and she intends to spend several weeks during the spring at Florence, Rome, and Naples, where she is to meet the Duke and Duchess of Sparta, who are about to leave Greece for a year.

THE following is Capt. Sigsbee's account of the *Maine* disaster, as given to a correspondent of the Associated Press:—

"On the night of the explosion I had not retired. I was writing letters. I find it impossible to describe the sound or shock, but the impression remains of something awe-inspiring, terrifying, of noise, rending, vibrating, all-pervading. There is nothing in the former experience of anyone on board to measure the explosion. After the first great shock I cannot myself recall how many sharp detonations I heard—not more than two or three. I knew my ship was gone. In such a structure as the *Maine*, the effects of such an explosion are not for a moment in doubt. I made my way through the long passage in the dark, groping from side to side, to the hatchway, and thence to the poop, being among the earliest to reach the spot. As soon as I recognised the officers, I ordered the high explosives to be flooded, and I then directed that the boats available be lowered to rescue the wounded or drowning. Discipline, in a perfect measure, prevailed. There was no more confusion than a call to quarters would produce, if as much. I soon saw by the light of the flames, that all my officers and crew left

alive on board surrounded me. I cannot form any idea of the time, but it seemed five minutes from the time I reached the poop until I left, the last man it was possible to reach having been saved. It must have been three-quarters of an hour or more, however, from the amount of work done. The officers and men worked together lowering the boats, and the gig took some time to lower. I did not notice the rain of debris described by Lieutenant Blandin and others, who were on deck at the time of the first explosion. But I did observe the explosion of the fixed ammunition, and wonder that more were not hurt thereby. Without going beyond the limits of what was proper in the harbour of a friendly Power, I always maintain precautions against attack, and the quarterwatch was ordered to have ammunition for the smaller guns ready to hand, so that, in the improbable event of an attack on the ship, it would have been found ready. It was this ammunition which exploded as the heat reached it."

MR. A. J. WILSON, who is anything but a Jingo, says in a recent issue of the *Investors' Review*:—

Lord Salisbury's statement in the House of Lords on Tuesday night may appear satisfactory to all except those who know anything about the affairs in the Far East. He made it clear enough that the port of Talienwan, over which so much fuss has been made, was used merely as an engine of diplomacy for the purpose of clearing up an ambiguous position. But is this position cleared up? We doubt it much. Both Russia and Germany had seized places on the Chinese coast, with the apparent intention of converting them into exclusive depôts for their own ships of war and commerce. It was quite on the cards that France would follow their example, and therefore the British Government was under the necessity of taking steps to oblige these Powers to declare themselves. Our Ambassador at Peking put forward our treaty rights in opposition to the exclusive attitude of Germany and Russia, and suggested the opening of Talienwan as a treaty port. The move was excellent, and it has resulted in "Stalemate." "We shall make our ports free," quoth the Powers, and Lord Salisbury thankfully accepts. "A free port is better than a treaty port," he told the House of Lords. That doctrine, with all respect to him, is mischievous nonsense. A treaty port means a port whose commerce is regulated by the European maritime customs service of China, a service which guarantees equal rights to all comers. A "free port" means whatsoever Germany or Russia pleases—free while we watch and grumble, closed when our attention is elsewhere. At other points in the game we also seem to have come off second-best. Our treaty rights have been recognised in form and undermined in reality. The equality of all the Powers before the Chinese is broken, and the patch-up now come to might very easily be the prelude to a fight. Well may the *Standard* speak out against such an exhibition of "fustian and funk."

This is it seems to us an exceedingly able and common-sense summary of the situation. It seems, as we have said before, that our Government is contenting itself with promises, while our Continental competitors are going off with the pudding.

THE *Vancouver World* of the 21st ult. contains a long account of the sailing of the "big steamer" *Pakshan*, "about the largest vessel on the Northern route," for the Yukon, with passengers, stores, "horses, sleighs, and men in fur coats, heavy clothing, and other unmistakable signs of their destination." She took about 100 passengers from Victoria and about 175 from Vancouver, and must have been fairly crowded, and was to take additional passengers and freight at Nanaimo, where she ran aground, but got off without injury.

Harper's Weekly says in an editorial paragraph on the 12th ult.:—"There seems to be some fear in England that the British Government will recede from the splendid position in which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach placed it. Russia is threatening by moving troops into Manchuria, and is even moving towards the frontier of Afghanistan; but every friend of freedom and civilisation will hope that the insistence of the English Press will convince Lord Salisbury that for once his foreign policy may be safely of that manly kind which once made Great Britain the dominating force of Europe."—As a pendant to this we may draw attention to Linley Sambourne's cartoon in *Punch*. In the background the Russian Bear is attacking the Chinese Dragon. The British Lion is reposing under a rock on which the American Eagle is sitting. The cartoon is entitled "Moral Support," and the Eagle says to the Lion: "What! Not going to fight for free ports? Why, if you'd wanted backing, I'd ha' sat tight here and flapped my wings for all they're worth!"—But we have no doubt that if it comes to fighting for freedom of trade the American Eagle will not limit its support to wing-flapping.

THE *New York Journal of Commerce* of the 19th ult. has a very interesting dispatch, dated the previous day, from its Washington correspondent, which seems to indicate that the U.S. Government like the British are at present being satisfied by promises as to the protection of American trade in China. The correspondent says:—

Mr. Everett Frazar, of New York, had a very satisfactory interview to-day with Assistant Secretary Day in regard to the protection of American interests in China. Mr. Frazar was informed by Judge Day that the memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce on the subject had been read and carefully considered. "The Administration is not indifferent," was his emphatic assurance, and he intimated that the President himself was cordially enlisted on the side of the protection of American interests. Judge Day also admitted in guarded language the accuracy of the statements made in these dispatches early in the week regarding the assurances given our Government by Russia and Germany. The right of the United States to freedom of trade upon an equal plane with all other nations was presented to the Courts of Berlin and St. Petersburg and was acknowledged and assured by their Ministers of Foreign Affairs upon substantially the basis of the assurances given to Great Britain and referred to recently by Lord Salisbury in Parliament. Judge Day did not state these facts in detail to-day, but his diplomatic references to the subject confirmed the belief of his callers in the accuracy of the dispatches already published. Mr. Frazar set forth the magnitude and possibility of our trade relations with China and proffered any assistance which it might be in the power of the China committee of the Chamber of Commerce to render in obtaining facts or suggesting measures.

Judge Day assured him that this assistance would be gladly welcomed, but that he did not think any further steps were required just at present. He suggested that the committee might confer with Minister Conger on his arrival here from Brazil on his way to his new post at Peking, and would probably be able to give him many valuable suggestions, as well as to establish cordial relations with him for the future. It is not thought necessary at the State Department that any action should be taken by Congress at the present time in regard to European intervention in China, but several Senators have expressed a willingness to act if the necessity arose. Mr. Frazar called on Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and this evening entertained at dinner at the Arlington the Minister of the Kingdom of Corea, of which he is Consul-General at New York.

Miscellaneous Articles.

RUSSIA, COREA AND JAPAN.

22nd Mar.

WHEN the news was received by wire by one of our evening contemporaries that Russia had withdrawn the financial adviser and the military instructors whom she had lent to Corea, this action of Mr. de Speyer, the Russian Minister, seemed so incomprehensible, that we forebore commenting on it until we received fuller information. This has now reached us in the newspapers brought by the *Empress of China* and the *Melbourne*, and we can only imagine that the *Japan Mail* is right in attributing it to Mr. de Speyer's having been attacked by a fit of hysteria. The *Independent* of the 12th instant translates from the Corean text the dispatch on the subject sent by the Russian Minister to the Corean Foreign Office on the 7th instant, as follows:—

"Recently I have been informed that there exists a deplorable condition of affairs in Seoul, many idlers among your people claiming to be gifted politicians create disturbance by opposing Russian interests. This state of affairs naturally causes great surprise to my Imperial Sovereign, the Emperor of Russia. At the request of your Imperial Sovereign and your Government, the Russian Government had sent military instructors to drill the soldiers and to guard the palace, and an adviser for your Finance Department. This action on the part of my Government plainly indicates Russia's intention of helping your country as a neighbour and her desire to strengthen your independence. But your Government did not seem to appreciate the importance of Russia's action at the time and now your Government freely prevents Russia from accomplishing the advantages and beneficial results for your country which she intended. The present attitude of your Government is so plain that Russia cannot endure this condition much longer. Therefore my Emperor has graciously ordered me to report fully to your Emperor and inquire of your Government definitely whether Corea still desires to be benefited by Russia's help or not; and if the military instructors and finance adviser are not considered necessary by your Emperor and your Government, my Government will make some other necessary arrangement according to the circumstances, but your Government must maintain your independence in the future according to its ability. I am awaiting your reply and hope it will be received within twenty-four hours, and I further request Your Excellency to report to your Emperor that I desire to obtain an audience with him for the purpose of informing him of the instructions I have received from my Imperial Sovereign concerning this matter."

The reasons that actuated Mr. de Speyer in his *coup* are supposed to be the attempted assassination of Kim, the

Russian interpreter, the anti-Russian memorial addressed to the Emperor of Corea by the Independence Club, and the Cabinet's protest against the course pursued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in agreeing to lease a large tract of land on Deer Island, Fusan, to Russia without consulting his colleagues—this is the *Japan Mail's* summary. It will be remembered that when the acting Foreign Minister Min Yong-muk, had made this single-handed concession to Russia he resigned, but the Emperor re-appointed him two days afterwards. On this the rest of the Cabinet resigned, stating in their memorial that: "We have countersigned his re-appointment because we consider that it was your Majesty's wish to have him in the Cabinet again. But if we do not resign our positions under the circumstances, even if we are insignificant beings, we cannot be inconsistent. Moreover we consider that one Minister will be enough for transacting all Government business, and we ought to leave the Government without delay. Therefore we hereby send joint resignations and hope your gracious Majesty will accept the same." To this memorial the Emperor replied:—"You have already countersigned this re-appointment and again sending in this joint resignation does not seem to us to be consistent and it seems to us unwise. We are sorry because of your action. You ought to understand our reason for relieving him temporarily and reappointing him again."

Then the Foreign Minister sent in his resignation, on the ground (we are quoting from the *Seoul Independent*) that the impossibility of his accepting the position had been manifested by the officials as well as the people. His Majesty replied as follows: "We have recently accepted your resignation and we immediately re-appointed you for good reasons. Your desire of resigning a second time seems to result from an indisposition to bear criticism. You need not say anything more and must take up your duties immediately." Then the rest of the Cabinet determined to resign again, and this drew from the Emperor the following edict:—"We have already forbidden the officials who are reported to be taking steps to send in a memorial but now we hear that the Councillors of State intend to memorialise us again. Is the practice of memorialising the Throne the only business the Council does? The continuance of this practice after our previous decrees seems to us entirely uncalled-for. No such memorial will be accepted hereafter."

Apparently Mr. de Speyer's intention was to so alarm the Emperor and his Cabinet by his threat of the withdrawal of Russian support, that they would eagerly repudiate the charge of unfriendliness, and assure him with bated breath and whispering humbleness that they had no desire whatever to do without Russia's protection; but if so, he has been hoist with his own petard. The

anti-Russian feeling of all the members of the Cabinet except the Foreign Minister was strengthened by a great open-air meeting in Seoul attended by some eight thousand Coreans held on Main Street, near the Bell-house, on the 10th. The chairman was a Corean, one of the principal merchants in Seoul, and the whole proceedings show the strides that the population of Seoul is making in civilisation. The object of the meeting was to express to the Foreign Minister the popular opinion that Corea, while grateful to Russia for her past services, could do without Mr. Alexeieff and the military instructors, and, as we learn from the *Independent*, it was resolved unanimously amid much excitement and applause that the following communication should be sent to the Foreign Department:—

"To his Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Min Yong-muk;

"SIR,—We, the undersigned, are authorised by the mass meeting of the people of Corea to inform Your Excellency that the people desire the Government to reply to the dispatch of the Russian representative concerning the military instructors and finance adviser that they shall be relieved from their engagements for the sake of maintaining our independent sovereign rights. We pray Your Excellency to consider the wishes of the people in deciding this question.

"March 10th, second year of Kangnui.

"Ye Seung-man,

"Chang Bung,

"Hyen Kong-yem,

"Citizen Committee."

The *Independent* adds that "considering the immense number of people assembled the meeting was an orderly one and the addresses were moderate in tone, and any inflammatory demonstration was immediately suppressed by the leaders. There were many foreign spectators, among whom the Russian representative and his staff were interested onlookers."

A Japanese vernacular paper, the *Tokio Asahi*, says that this recent assertion of independence by Corea marks the success of the efforts of the representatives of England, the United States and Japan, and it adds that now that these Powers have induced Corea to give a decisive reply to Russia, they are bound to accept the responsibility of helping Corea to the utmost extent. But while the recent visit of a British squadron to Chemulpo has, no doubt, helped greatly to stiffen the Coreans, it is unlikely that the representatives of the Powers mentioned interfered to direct in any way Corea's decision.

One explanation of Mr. de Speyer's action is that he desired to please Japan, and so induce her to withdraw her opposition to Russian designs in China; but we should think that in vain would this net be spread in the sight of such a wary bird as Marquis Ito. We rather look upon it that Mr. de Speyer tried a bold stroke, and

it has failed, and that the Government in St. Petersburg, as the *Japan Mail* suggests, "will not care to endorse Mr. de Speyer's procedure very vigorously." That Russia, after all she has done, will quietly leave Corea to Japan, is not very probable. She will probably let things drift for a little while, confident that the poor, vacillating Emperor will come round to her again before long. It is noticeable on the one hand that the guard at the Russian Legation at Seoul has just been doubled; and on the other, that, apparently with the view of proving that it is not Russian advice alone of which Corea wishes to be independent, the latter has also given notice of dismissal to Colonel Nienstead, one of her American military advisers. Meanwhile, Japan has a splendid chance to regain some of her lost influence, if her Minister, Mr. Kato, uses the opportunity with discretion and gentleness.

WHAT AMERICANS THINK OF THEMSELVES.

23rd Mar.

It was a Scotch poet who wrote the immortal lines:—

"O wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us."

Such aspirations are, as we shall see, less necessary south of the Tweed and across the herring-pond than they are in Scotland. For whatever we may think of the

"Land of brown heath and slangy wood,

Land of the mountain and the flood," the Scot never abuses it. He leaves it. Never in our experience have we come across such home truths told of Scottish people by Scotsmen as are of everyday occurrence in England and the United States. Probably government by party is largely to blame for it. But however that may be, it cannot be gainsaid that the two countries last named need fear no temptation to think too highly of themselves, if they will only take heed to the jeremiads, the philippics, and the pessimism of their own people. It is quite possible—we are open to correction on this point—that the enormous growth of the recently published American Dictionary, with a hundred thousand more words than Webster, is due to the invention of such political slang as "mugwump, bulldozing, carpet-bagging," and the like. Whether that be so or not, we are prepared to stake our all on the statement, that there is not a Democratic journalist but is up to date with the newest of them, and that his Republican *confreres* are not a whit behind.

It is a most astonishing thing to an outsider that Americans should ever be able to hold up their heads at all, if they pay any attention to what their own papers say of them. But that of course they do not, and hence the sensitiveness to outside criticism. The American nation as a whole, not perhaps the best-informed circles, but the great majority

who have as a rule nothing but native opinion to guide them, are keenly alive to the criticism of their British or French visitors. They seem to think that by this means they may know something of the good points which Democrat denies to Republican and Republican refuses to Democrat. It goes without saying that no foreign critic ever was capable of the sweeping criticism for which there is so much native precedent. No Englishman has ever found American Society "worse than that of Imperial Rome," neither has he described every American political institution as "a mixture of bribery and falsehood cemented by corruption." He has even found things to admire in the municipal affairs of New York, and has expressed his belief that there are Americans in political life as clean-handed as Britishers in similar circumstances. But to do this he has had to speak in direct contradiction to many of his American fellow-critics, who for years have held up their institutions to ridicule and contempt; have bedaubed the reputations of eminent men, and befouled the fair fame of society women; who would have us believe that to be a politician in the American sense is to cease to be a gentleman in the sense that Englishmen understand it; and that members of Municipalities, State legislatures, and even of Congress itself are all afflicted with the disease which Shakespeare in *Julius Caesar* designates by the term an "itching palm." Much more of this kind of critical abuse might be referred to, but the above must suffice. Should an Englishman bring a spicy paragraph to the notice of an American friend, the reply is a stereotyped one: "You mustn't take that sort of thing seriously. Nobody does. Our papers think it smart; but it doesn't deceive anybody." If the Britisher retort: "But are there no libel laws in your land?" the reply is equally stereotyped: "That's only a fair sample of our criticism of public men. If they don't like it they can resign."

But there are disadvantages, as *Harper's Weekly* points out. The member of Senate who by-and-by becomes Minister of Foreign Affairs is given, as Sherman has sometimes done, to talk too plainly in diplomatic affairs, whereupon the more formal Europeans shrug their shoulders at the fresh outburst of Western rudeness, and American travellers who know what "good form" is, are reduced to the humiliating necessity of explaining that this peculiarly characteristic action of the Western diplomat must not be held to mean all that it says. This is the "He's-all-right-when-you-know-him" sort of apology, and, as *Harper's* says, must be distinctly "humiliating."

The article to which we refer takes its home readers to task on other grounds. They are lacking in civilisation, it says, and in proof thereof adduces the defiance and contempt for law exemplified in the horribly brutal cases of lynching. Here again no one

from the outside could say anything stronger than the best papers of the States. Lynching is held up to the reprobation it deserves; but there are scores and hundreds of other sheets which not only defend, but glory in these disgraceful outbursts; and ministers of the Gospel have not been wanting to join in the proof that they and their congregations as well as the editors of their papers do indeed lack civilisation as this writer above referred to declares.

But it was ever so in Anglo-Saxon lands. Do you want to know what you really are? Ask your brother. Has a society *belle* too great a faith in her own charms, the same brother will tell her the homely truth. But—she will not take it seriously. Neither does any land take to heart the plain advice of its own sons. If there be no other escape from a peculiarly painful dilemma, we fall back upon "the system," which like a corporation has no soul to be saved, nor body to be kicked. Even in business matters everything is not as it should be in the States. Protection has done much to set the consumer against the producer, and to this is doubtless due some of the virulence in the endless attacks upon trusts, plutocrats, and manufacturers generally. *Puck* goes further, and in a recent issue declares that in order to sell their wares American manufacturers do not hesitate to stoop to the dodge of placing deceptive labels upon them with the legends "Made in England," or "Made in Germany," as the case may be. This, if it be true—for *Puck* may be referring merely to Republican manufacturers—is quite a "come down" for the native home of artificial eggs and wooden nutmegs. It argues defeat—a word which is to be found in the biggest of American dictionaries only for reference to foreign lauds. It is an acknowledgment that as yet the mother country can more than hold her own in some things against her giant son. As Britishers, of course we knew this before, but it is a distinct sign of progress for Uncle Sam's comic papers to acknowledge it. Nothing is so helpful to "getting on" as a clear knowledge of what is keeping us back.

In glancing at Americans' opinions of Americans we are struck with their similarity to those of British for British. The main difference lies in the age of the two lands. England has come to years of discretion, even as nations go, for centuries. The United States are growing, and have by no means arrived at, or near, maturity, but there are unmistakeable signs that the young giant of the West is to follow very closely in the footsteps of his hoary old parent. We shall be more than pleased when the following is finished, and the two march onward side by side, and hand in hand.

THE PARTITION OF CHINA.

24th Mar.

THE extinction of China's independence and the partition of the country among the European Powers may be said to have been decided upon in principle when Russia, France, and Germany interfered to save the Liatung peninsula from Japan; and it will always be to Lord Rosebery's credit that he refused to be a party to that great piece of hypocrisy, not to call it treachery. Treachery it really was, for Russia undoubtedly had made up her mind then that she would take what she was professedly restoring to China, and France and Germany, no doubt, intended to have territorial compensation as well as any other proofs of gratitude in the way of tramway and railway concessions, commissions to reconstruct arsenals, etc., that they could extort from Peking. England has been working hard but unavailingly to prevent the spoliation of China, for our rulers know in their hearts that whatever promises may be made to them, spontaneously or otherwise, as to the freedom of the ports to be acquired by Continental Powers, sooner or later means will be found by the new owners to specially favour their own trade, for, as they justly plead, wherever trade is free to all the world England gets the lion's share. Recent Reuter's telegrams show that Lord Salisbury has been doing what he could by diplomatic means to keep China open and preserve her integrity, but even the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent threat that we should safeguard these advantages "even at the cost of war" does not seem to have had the effect expected. Three weeks ago Mr. Curzon stated in the House of Commons that the British policy was to prevent or postpone the disruption of China as long as possible, that the seizure of Chinese territory formed no part of our present policy, and that we could not approve such a policy on the part of others. We also learnt that the Government was negotiating with Russia and Germany with a view to the embodiment of this policy in a formal diplomatic document. The reply to this was Russia's demand for a lease of Port Arthur and T'alienwan and the right to build a railway across Manchuria. The *Times* met this with a leading article stating that never since the Crimean War were the British people less disposed to brook an infringement of their rights, and that they are convinced of the justice of their cause and of the magnitude of the issues both in China and West Africa. This was a hint to both Russia and France, and it was shortly afterwards accentuated by the statement of so sober a politician as Mr. Goschen, speaking as a Minister of the Crown, that the nation may look forward with increasing confidence that if there is to be peace, then it will be peace with honour, and if there should be war, which God forbid,

war will be crowned with victory. It is nearly a month since M. Hanotaux gave our Ambassador in Paris the comforting assurance that there was not the slightest intention on the part of France of imitating Germany in seizing a naval base in China; and now we learn that France has demanded a port on the coast of Kuangtung—of course on a lease,—the undertaking that the southern provinces of China shall not be alienated to any other Power, and the right to continue the Tongking railway system to Yunnanfu, whence it is to be continued to the Yangtze. If we are not now face to face with the partition of China, we at least see the shadow which it casts before it.

China being already a bundle of sticks very loosely tied together, the proposal of the division of these sticks among the Foreign Powers has no such effect on the country as a whole as the partition of Poland had on the Poles, to take an instance. The native paper to which we referred the other day has, it appears, an issue in Macao, which is called the *Tche-sin-pao*, or *The Reformer China*, and this paper has recently published what it says is a circular letter from the French Government with a plan for the division of China, translated from a Japanese paper of the 12th of January. The preamble mentions the weakness of the Tartar Government, and it goes on to say: "Of late years European Powers have taken several ports in China situated on the sea or near the rivers. Although this occupation may have caused some injury to the people, it is at the same time to be commended, because it is made with the intention of protecting the millions of inhabitants. But as a beginning has been made in the government of some territories, and in the construction of public works and useful arrangements, why should not the whole of China be divided, with clearly marked frontiers? The matter seems urgent, and we propose the following map as a desirable sketch of the projected division."

France shall take Kuangtung and Kuangsi, Yunnan, Hunan, and Fukien, in all five provinces. England will take Kiangsu and Kiangsi, Chékiang, Anhui, and Hupeh, in all five provinces. Germany shall have Shantung and Honan. Russia shall take Shaansi and Shensi. The provinces of Szechuan, Kueichou, and Kansu are neither civilised, populous, nor rich; they are therefore to be left out of account for the present. Chihli and its capital are to be made a neutral State, governed by a Viceroy appointed by the accord of all the Powers. Japan is to be placated with a part of Fukien, which was constantly her prey during the Ming dynasty, and France is to have Hainan, while Macao is to still belong to Portugal. A conference of the representatives of the Powers is to be held at Nanking this Spring to deliberate on this partition. The supposed

author of this proposal is the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. The writer who sends it to the *Echo de Chine* says that its author was trying to kill two birds with one stone; to rouse Chinese patriots against the Tartar Government which could allow the integrity of the empire to be so compromised; and to hold up to odium the French Government, which is already distrusted owing to its protection of the Catholic missions.

There are as many maps of partitioned China in existence as there are minds. We know now that France wishes Kuangtung, Kuangsi, Kueichou, and Yunnan reserved for future digestion; England has her eye on the Valley of the Yangtze, which includes, we presume, Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Chékiang, Anhui, Hupeh, Hunan, and Szechuan; Germany wants Shantung; and Russia Manchuria. That some such a division will take place before long, everybody believes; there may be differences as to the details, but hardly the best friend of the people of China believes that it can be averted, nor is it certain that to avert it would be for the best interest of the people of China. England does not want China partitioned; but we may not be able to prevent it, and must look out for ourselves when the time for it comes.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA.

25th Mar.

POSSIBLY even the British Government is at last awake to the inconceivable corruption of what is known, for want of a more convenient term, as the Government of this country. The rejection of the offer of a guaranteed loan because no bribes were forthcoming is too startling a revelation to be ignored, and we hope it will free our diplomacy, once for all, from the misconceptions which have weakened our position by promoting a policy of misunderstood conciliation. It is difficult to credit the Chinese with magnetic or mesmeric power, but undoubtedly some mysterious influence seizes upon most men who have close dealings with them for any length of time, and the later history of China has been a curious instance of the readiness of the world to accept people at their own vociferated value. The contemptuous insolence with which Foreign officials have been consistently treated was originally founded upon a genuine feeling of superiority, but it has since been often assumed with success to hide a consciousness of weakness. The effect has been remarkable. Minister after Minister has allowed himself, after a few undignified struggles, to be securely entangled in the folds of the soporific net whose meshes are woven of plausibility and bluff. The absurd bogey of the Yellow Race, by which even a shrewd man of the world like Lord Wolseley was impressed, has been paraded before us with awful trumpeting, and the still more ridiculous ill-

sion of securing China as a friend and ally has ever been the cherished vision of our hypnotised diplomats—an empty phantasm which has been skilfully furnished up with gaudy colours and tricked out with cheap tinsel by the astute but misguided foreigners who have acted as "go-betweens." Unfortunately for China she has a neighbour who, being much of the same kidney, understands all about forts armed with imitation cannon and so forth, and is not in the least impressed by the very biggest words. And so the bladder has been badly pricked, and the odour it has since emitted is none of the sweetest.

It having been proved that China may be kicked with impunity, the gentlemen who have submitted for years with exemplary patience to insult and contumely are all becoming quite brave and venturesome. They even dare to send threats to the Tsungli Yamén without fear of the consequences. A man is never so brave as when he suddenly discovers that what he has been, in mortal fright of is perfectly harmless, and so there is just a fear lest, in their new-born confidence, the Foreign Ministers may be so carried away by the delights of punching the bogey that they will smash it, and find out that after all Peking is not China. The capital may be described as the focus of the corruption which streams from every *yamén* in the country. Its power is derived from the fact that it issues licenses to rob the people, on the understanding that it receives a share of the pelf; and this power is supported by the licensees who are banded together in self-defence. The officials, in turn, derive their power from the horde of underlings who live on the crumbs which fall from their tables, and so, from the greatest mandarin in Peking to the lowest *yamén*-runner or "brave," the whole official element is cemented together, in opposition to the people, and is animated by one pervading spirit—the love of gain.

The Government of China and the people of China are thus two separate entities. To speak, therefore, of the friendliness of China is to use an empty form of words, and it would be interesting to know what Mr. Curzon understood by the term when, as reported in the telegram we published on the 4th instant, he said that "the conclusion of the loan with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has proved the friendliness of China." Mr. Curzon is the last man to admit that he has talked nonsense through ignorance, and we can only suppose that this absurd phrase was intended to deceive the ignorant at home at the expense of insulting the intelligence of British residents in China.

In China the adoption of an official career is simply a commercial speculation, to which family and friends are prepared to contribute. The preliminary expenses are heavy, and the newly fledged mandarin takes up his

post with all his thought and efforts directed to the acquisition of gain. Money he must have, in the first place to pay off the debt he has incurred, and in the second to keep his post, obtain promotion, and avoid disgrace. His aims are essentially practical. No transcendental theories regarding obligations to improve the condition of the people committed to his charge are permitted to distract his attention from the great business of his life, and duty to his country is an abstraction which he may be able to babble about in vague platitudes, but which has no concrete existence for him. This is how we explain the singular fact that in the midst of intense national arrogance and conceit the virtue of patriotism is wholly wanting. In negotiating for the loans, the mandarins in Peking have put on one side, as uninteresting to them personally, the political consequences likely to follow their actions. Their sole object has been to secure the greatest possible profit out of the needs of the country they have ruined. Two considerations have determined all their decisions. The lender must be prepared to make them handsome presents and to demand no condition which would involve the control of any finances of which they have had the fingering. Is it wonderful if under such conditions, the provinces should show signs of discontent? Why, they may ask, should the men who are responsible for China's troubles now be making a profit out of their misdeeds, while we have to surrender part of our recognised plunder from the likin to pay off the debts they have contracted?

The salvation of China would appear to depend on the establishment of a strong central government, but we must not be supposed to suggest that it should be composed of materials such as we have described.

RUSSIA, COREA, AND JAPAN.

26th Mar.

THERE seems to be an impression among those who are conversant with the set of the political currents in Japan, that Mr. de Speyer's recent self-denying dispatch to the Emperor of Corea was really actuated by the desire to give Japan a sop which would induce her not to interfere with Russian operations in China. The only thing that the Franco-Russian alliance thinks it has to fear in the Far East is an offensive alliance between England and Japan. The latter has not yet brought either her army or her navy up to the standard she proposes for herself, but even her present forces are quite sufficient to keep the Russians out of China, and to carry the war to Vladivostok; and the English and Japanese fleets together could easily dominate the Pacific. It appears to Russia then to be of the utmost importance that she should conciliate Japan and prevent, if possible, her

allying herself with England; and to do this, Mr. de Speyer has been instructed to throw over Corea, and leave it for Japan to pick up. Our own impression was that it would be vain for Russia to spread such a net as this in the sight of such a wary old bird as Marquis Ito. But to this it is answered that Marquis Ito is not above taking to himself the credit, which he would get in Japan, of ousting Russia and re-establishing Japanese influence at Seoul. If there are unpleasant consequences hereafter, the wary Marquis will go out in a blaze of triumph, and allow these consequences to be shouldered by some more ingenuous statesman.

The programme is supposed to be, that China, with the aid of the loan just contracted with the Hongkong and Shanghai and Deutsch-Asiatische Banks, shall pay off Japan in May, and ask for the immediate evacuation, as agreed, of Weihaiwei by the Japanese. Russia will then ask for Weihaiwei, as the Cassini Convention allows her to do; and what Russia asks for, China has to grant sooner or later. Weihaiwei is a very much better naval station than Port Arthur. At the latter, in its present condition, there is only room for nine vessels altogether, while the largest fleet can ride in safety at Weihaiwei. Russia seated firmly at Talienwan and Weihaiwei, and with the whole of Manchuria in her grasp, will hold the keys of North China, and she can then, when the time comes, move down again on Corea and resume her influence at Seoul, where she will again be welcomed, unless Japan's treatment of the Coreans is very different from what it was after the late war.

The situation, if these surmises are correct, and we hope they are not, is a very serious one for England. The country is unanimous in its determination to protect freedom of trade with the whole of China, and it is understood that to safeguard this freedom of trade the independence and integrity of China must also be secured. Cabinet Ministers have been instructed to say that even at the cost of war England will protect her treaty rights over the whole of China; but there has been a tacit understanding that Japan might be relied on to back up England in this policy, while the United States would lend moral support. If Japan has allowed herself to be bought off, as some think, the situation is seriously changed. It is not that England is not fully strong enough to enforce whatever decision her Foreign Office may be driven to take; but the loss of Japan's co-operation on land would be a sensible one. Whatever may be Lord Salisbury's official optimism, he knows that, as Mr. A. J. Wilson puts it, our treaty rights are being recognised in form and undermined in reality. England or Russia has got to give way; the question, which it is to be, is distinctly complicated by Japan's attitude. The latest Japanese papers remain strongly in

favour of an alliance with England, and it is to be hoped that those are wrong who think that Marquis Ito will dance to the new tune which Mr. de Speyer has piped in Korea.

Reviews.

THE ENGLISH MAIL PAPERS.

(FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 18TH OF FEB.)

The *Overland Mail* states very plainly what are we believe the views held by most English-speaking residents in China:—

Unless followed by action—and that decided action—the declarations of the Government as to their resolution to maintain, unfettered and unrestricted by the action of the other Powers or by the bad faith of China, our treaty rights and privileges in that empire would be useless. It is hoped and believed that pressure is being put upon China to adopt the proposals of our Government specially directed to secure the objects thus formulated. But while we are talking, the other Powers are continuing to maintain pretensions which are absolutely incompatible with the position our Ministers have taken up. What is wanted is not bold or menacing speeches, but a clear, definite declaration addressed to China and all the Powers—a demand from her of additional guarantees for the maintenance of our rights—a notice and warning to them that this country repudiates as to China the doctrine of spheres of influence, and will oppose any attempts to give effect to any such doctrine. If other Governments decline to give us satisfactory assurances to that effect, we should at once proceed to secure our position by overt acts. The issue is between our policy of “Hands Off” and the game of grab. It may be that all is being done which needs to be done; but while the country is kept in the dark as to what is taking place, and words of doubtful import escape from Ministerial lips, and language which is very far from dubious is used by the Ministers of other Powers, it is no wonder if the country does not feel as confident about the course our Government is pursuing as it wishes to be.

The unusual situation in which Lord Salisbury is, is that, if he decides to secure our position by overt acts, he will have the whole country with him. The Press and public men of all shades of politics are unanimous in deciding that freedom of trade is worth fighting for. In this connection it is not uninteresting to note a really remarkable discrepancy, to which a correspondent of the *Standard* draws attention, between the public statements of Lord Salisbury and the German Foreign Secretary. They are printed in parallel form:—

LORD SALISBURY.
(House of Lords, 8th February.)

So having ascertained that Tientsin was to be a free port, it interested us very little to know whether it was to be a treaty port or not. I may say that similar assurances have been made to us by the German Government with respect to the territory they have recently occupied; indeed, the German Government went further, and were more flattering to us, for their Ambassador informed me they had come to the conclusion that our manner of dealing with such things, at all events in the Colonies, is better than theirs, and that in this instance, at any rate, they intended to imitate our methods.

HERR VON BÜLOW.
(Reichstag, 8th February.)

In my opinion the position of Kiaochow as a free port will best serve Germany's interests. Yet I should not bind myself beforehand, and especially not with regard to foreign countries.

The question is asked: which of the two Foreign Secretaries is right? It is obvious that both cannot be.

The *Home News* writes, in reference to Lord Salisbury's foreign policy:—

In a letter to a Working Men's Conservative Association, Lord Salisbury expresses his gratitude for a resolution of confidence in the foreign policy of the Government which, he says, has been the object of much adverse, hasty, and ill-informed criticism. No Foreign Minister in recent times has been called upon to deal with problems so numerous or so exacting as those with which Lord Salisbury has grappled, patiently and not unsuccessfully, in the last two years. We hear, from armchair critics, a good deal of his failures, but events do not go far to justify the criticism with which he is met even by his own party. Lord Salisbury's methods are not those of the bully. He imitates neither Germany in Kiaochow, nor France in Indo-China. France has just secured a heavy compensation from China on account of the capture of a Frenchman by brigands in Tonking two and a-half years ago. Great Britain, without fuss, but by quiet persistence, has reaped more potential advantage in Yunnan. China agrees to the extension of the Burma railway through that province. What the concession is worth depends solely upon the energy with which it is utilised on behalf of British trade. Lord Salisbury is in the position of having maintained British rights in the east of China, whilst increasing and strengthening British opportunities in the south-west. Not less of a triumph for his diplomacy is the Abyssinian Treaty. Whatever Brions themselves may think on the subject, the foreigner has no doubt that British diplomacy has scored heavily in the compact with Menelik. France and Russia have intrigued and boasted of their position in Abyssinia, but Great Britain holds the trump card. In Paris the disappointment caused by the terms of the treaty perhaps accounts in some measure for the reports of the renewed activity of the French in Nixeria, which serve to keep alive the anxiety with which events in that region are watched.

The *Times* has one leading article, on the 14th ult., dealing with Chinese affairs. It says:—

There are other signs that the ferment of Western ideas and activities is working among Chinamen, and that the lessons of the Japanese war, with all that has followed it, have not been entirely missed. Some of the speculations reported may seem rather wild, but it is much that they exist at all. For example, our Shanghai correspondent says that it has been reported in native papers that Prince Kung has suggested to his Imperial master the advisability of abandoning the North of China to the Czar, and of removing the capital from Peking to Nanking under British protection. That is rather a daring proposal, but it is not without practical sense. It indicates recognition of the fact that England and Russia are the two nations to whom permanent interests assign the principal rôles in Chinese affairs. What is more, it indicates appreciation of the difference between the two rôles, since to Russia is assigned territorial expansion at the cost of China while England is recognised as interested in the maintenance of the Chinese Empire. It is, perhaps, a misfortune for China that the present dynasty has its hereditary seat in the north. Were it otherwise China might better adapt herself to changes which seem inevitable. The reply to Prince Kung is that the dynasty could not survive removal of the capital from Peking; and as the dynasty just now means the Empress-Mother, a particularly strong-willed and conservative lady, this answer may for the time be taken as final. But then our correspondent tells us that the dynasty itself is not in much favour with those classes of Chinamen who, coming most in contact with Western ideas, may be regarded as the most active and progressive of their race. When “only a leader is required to produce a strong anti-dynastic movement,” experience teaches that the movement is very likely to be brought about.

The *Globe* of the 12th ult. has the following note on Railways in China:—

It is perhaps unwise, in the face of recent events, to attach, at present, too great credence

to reports from Peking as to the conduct of the negotiations between the Taungli Yamen and the European Ministers, but this morning's telegram from the Chinese capital, if it should prove true, is of the utmost importance. The grant to Great Britain to extend the Burma railway through Yunnan is a poor sop for our disappointment in the East. The country presents appalling engineering difficulties for the construction of a railway, and in the opinion of most travellers who have visited it, there is considerable doubt as to whether the game is worth the candle. With regard to Germany's right to construct a railway from Kiaochow to Ichou the case is entirely different. The line will be carried through a country which is splendidly adapted for railways, and is fertile to the highest degree. It will tap the rich provinces of Shantung and Kiangsu, and divert a considerable amount of the traffic down the Yellow River. Its value to the Germans will be simply enormous, and although Kiaochow may remain a free port, we may look for preferential rates on the railway which will keep the British trader well in the background. We have heard a great deal about the intention of the Government to seek no territorial acquisition in China, and against such a policy we have always protested. A British port on the mainland, with British railways extending from it into the heart of a fertile and populous country, would do far more practical good than any amount of insistence on the maintenance of existing rights. The Germans have realised the soundness of this policy, and they will find their reward. It may be safely predicted that Kiaochow has a future before it, which may one day rival that of Hongkong.

The same paper has the following note, on the 17th ult., on the Zola trial:—

Judged by English notions, the trial of the Knave of Hearts was a much more regular proceeding than the astonishing farce now being played in the Cour d'Assises. Everybody makes speeches, logical and illogical, patriotic, and occasionally idiotic, and it is a subject for gratitude if not more than two gentlemen are on their legs at once. When the court is calm, it is more like an amateur Parliamentary Debating Society than anything else; when its emotions have passed beyond its own control—which appears to happen about once in every half-hour or so—it is like nothing else in the world. Nevertheless, out of all this turmoil there appear now and then glimpses of the truth which lies at the back of the Dreyfus case. It would be unjust to deny that, in spite of the preposterous procedure, it has been possible for Me. Labori to elicit facts which throw the most sinister light upon the conviction of Captain Dreyfus. How great is the impression which he has made may be seen from the evidence of General de Pellieux and from his own remark when the case closed for the day. Things must indeed be going badly for the French Government when General de Pellieux finds it necessary to terrify the jury with prophecies of immediate war. We observe that some people in this country take his declaration seriously. We believe that it was simply an attempt to influence the verdict by a little theatrical ranting, since, if General de Pellieux really knew that war was at hand, he would be little less than insane to say so. But nothing is more striking than the way in which Me. Labori's final declaration was received. He told the court just before the adjournment that, in the end, everyone would acknowledge that an error had been committed, and would agree that Dreyfus must be tried again. Three or four days ago such a declaration would have produced a storm of that futile bad language in which the French rejoice. Yesterday it was hailed with cheers. The change is significant, and means perhaps, that, after all, justice will at last be done. Everything depends upon the courage of the jury.

The Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 12th ult. is rather a long one:—

Partly owing to the requirements of the Stock Exchange settlement, the market has this week found its resources overtaxed, and a considerable sum has had to be borrowed from the Bank. One cause of the scarcity appears to be the accumulation of Government money at the Bank. The revenue is coming in very well, while the Government disbursements have apparently fallen con-

siderably into arrears. For instance, the payments on account of the Civil Services between January 1st and Saturday last were smaller than during the like period of 1897, although, owing to the larger estimated expenditure, they ought to have been somewhat greater. As a consequence, the Treasury balance at the Bank has been swollen, and on Saturday last amounted to £7,980,000, as compared with £6,193,000 at the like date twelve months ago. But in so far as the market has been straitened from this cause, it will have its resources all the more augmented when the delayed payments are made, and the disbursements are always heavy as the end of the fiscal year approaches. Preparations for the payment of the railway dividends have probably also had some influence in reducing the amount of loanable balance, but in this case also the distribution of the dividends in the course of the next two weeks should afford relief. On the other hand, however, it looks as if the Government of India will be compelled to have recourse to fresh borrowing before the end of the fiscal year, as between now and then it would have to sell drafts to the value of about £4,000,000, in order to cover the home charges, which it is hardly likely to be able to do. While, therefore, it is not improbable that the squeeze this week may prove to have been only temporary, there does not seem reason to expect anything but a slight relapse in discount rates.

The first leading article in the *Economist* is headed "The Coming Debate on the Indian Frontier," and the writer shows that the Government has cut away the ground from under the feet of the Opposition by Lord George Hamilton's dispatch of the 28th of January, in which he told Lord Elgin that India is not to attempt to conquer the Western Himalaya, that there is to be no annexation, that no tribute is to be exacted from the tribes, and that they are not to be disarmed. The Forward Policy is entirely discountenanced, and only the Khyber Pass is to be kept open. All the Opposition can do is to ask why the Government did not adopt this reasonable policy before, and to insist that in the India House and in India it might profitably be made a little stronger.

The second article, headed "The Two Foreign Policies," is a very important one. It points out that there is very grave disension in the Cabinet as to Foreign Affairs. Lord Salisbury is all for resting where we are; "he wants no more territory, with the weary weight of responsibility which an increase of territory must bring to a people whose empire now covers eleven millions of square miles, and involves the administration of the affairs of nearly one-fourth of mankind." Mr. Chamberlain, on the other hand, is for perpetual expansion; he fully adopts Lord Rosebery's dictum that we "must peg out claims for posterity." We must recollect, Mr. Chamberlain says, that we are a commercial people, absolutely dependent on trade and markets, and we must therefore look to the probable needs of the future, and see to it that other Powers which would shut out our goods from their territories do not pick up all the unconsidered trifles that are left on the planet in the shape of unoccupied or ineffectively occupied lands:—

"If foreign Powers object to this policy, and contend that it is not for the English to inherit the earth, Mr. Chamberlain turns to our naval armament and our realised wealth, and says that we can afford to ignore an opposition which is based on jealousy rather than reason. The critic may say that in Lord Salisbury's attitude is to be found the temper of the aristocratic diplomatist, in Mr. Chamberlain's that of the smart business man. In Lord Salisbury, it may be argued, we see the political Hamlet, whose native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought; while in Mr. Chamberlain we have the resolute man of action, who troubles his mind but little with what others think. But the point is that here are two quite different lines of policy. There is, on the one hand, the policy of prudence and concentration; on the other, the policy of

expansion and adventure. It is difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile these policies. Therefore we are constrained to ask, as the country generally is beginning to ask, which of the two is the policy of the Cabinet?

It is a very serious, practical question. The two policies are not only alien and diverse; they are actually opposed to each other; and this is the view not only of the country, but of foreigners and foreign Governments:—

It is, therefore, high time that we should know where we are, and that some authoritative utterance from the Government should be vouchsafed to us. It is a strange and not altogether reassuring fact that, while we know quite clearly what is the policy of the semi-despotic Government of Germany, as lucidly expressed by Herr Von Bülow, we do not know with any sufficient clearness what is the policy of constitutional England, where public opinion is supposed to rule. There ought to be a definite pronouncement; we do not, in regard to these momentous matters, want any repetition of the chaotic policy of the second Gladstone Cabinet in relation to Egypt and the Soudan, or of the late Rosebery Cabinet in relation to nearly everything. Even the warmest admirer of Mr. Chamberlain will agree that it is of greater importance that unity of conviction should mark the policy of the Cabinet than that we should excite the suspicion and contempt of foreign Governments by perpetual wobbling, by exciting words followed by tame deeds, by a see-saw policy founded on no definite principle. It is quite a mistake to assume that Lord Salisbury's policy is one of cowardice, Mr. Chamberlain's one of courage. The greatest of ethical thinkers has taught us that the ignoring of real danger merits a very different name from courage, which latter virtue may be perfectly consistent with a refusal to run extreme risks. The most courageous men in the world have been also the most prudent, and empires should not be governed in the spirit of the soldier of fortune, who risks a forlorn hope, or plunges headlong into unknown adventures. We might also point out that we have been engaged for many years in the process of "pegging out claims," and that some of these claims have turned to be as indifferent as those which will fall to the late comers at Klondyke. It may still further be urged that the kind of claims we "peg out" have to be defended, and that defence of an adequate kind is often more costly than the claim is worth. However, we do not intend here to judge between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain. Our point is that they represent respectively two distinct and apparently opposite policies, and that the nation ought to know which policy is really that of the Cabinet as a whole.

Then comes a very interesting article on "Life Assurance Novelty," and it is pointed out that the concessions now being offered "can hardly fail to be attractive, though their practical benefit is probably smaller than at first sight might appear." The next article is on "Marine Insurance in England—the Position and Outlook." It is shown that 1895 and 1896 were bad years, and that "unless 1898 should deal much more tenderly with 1897 than there is any sufficient encouragement to expect, a third consecutive year of misfortune is inevitable."

The notes in the *Saturday Review* this week are of no great interest to us, but we may extract one on the Cretan question:—

Crete is still without a Governor. That is the cause of much distress to the King of the Hellenes and Prince George of Greece. The King, it has been said, has sent the Czar a message of reproach because Russia has not insisted upon the desirability of Prince George. The Prince, it is added, thinks of paying a visit to the Sultan. He would like to assure him that a crusading Christian who failed in the attempt to conquer the Turks is quite competent to rule them. We shall be astonished if the Sultan is convinced by Prince George's argument. It will indeed be surprising if he receives the Prince at all. As far as can be gathered from the meagre news, Russia makes no move. Ambassadors, however, must do something for their living; and, according to the Constantinople correspondent of the *Times*, they are endeavouring to arrange, a scheme by which the "Provisional Government" of Crete shall be entrusted to "two Powers acting conjointly." The provisional Government of Egypt is not a precedent which encourages us to regard that idea with much hope. Meanwhile the Sultan is strengthening his army in Thessaly. He is the only Power who has no part in the Concert; yet, if there is in the situation any fact which is beyond doubt, it is that all the Powers are playing second fiddle to the Porte. The journals of Germany consider this a triumph for the diplomacy of England. We trust that they are not mistaken.

There is a very good article on "The Dreyfus Scandal," pointing out that it is not the condemnation of Dreyfus that is so pitiable, as the hysterical instability, the lack of self-control and self-respect, that the Government has shown since M. Scheurer-Kestner announced that he had evidence showing that the trial of Dreyfus was irregular and the victim innocent:—

Now, all this is sheer madness and will work the ruin of France unless common sense asserts itself. It means, first of all and above all, lack of confidence, which is lack of courage. Catch your traitor and shoot him if you please: shoot the wrong man, it may be, *pour encourager les autres*; but to cry out that the world is at its end because somebody is supposed to have betrayed the secret of a breech-loading field-gun—that way lies the *abdécade*. The pigeon-holes of the Chanceries of Europe are stuffed with such "traitorous" documents as the wonderful *bordereau*, and nobody is a penny the worse. France was defeated in 1870 not by *bordereaux* but the incapacity of the heads of her army, and judging by the specimens who have perorated before the Cour d'Assises during the last fortnight she is not in much better case now than she was twenty-eight years ago. "What the soldier said is not evidence," said Mr. Justice Starleigh in Mr. Pickwick's trial, and the majority of military witnesses at the Zola trial afford wonderful proof of the value of this unjudicial dictum. The favourite pose was: "I am a soldier, and therefore I must not be questioned or suspected," a striking and conclusive statement in a trial which had its origin in the conviction of a soldier for treason. Nor were the civil witnesses more helpful than the military. M. Bertillon, whose attitude and evidence are difficult to reconcile with perfect sanity, testified—amid a mass of irrelevancies—that all handwriting was divided into two classes, *dextrogyre* and *sinistroyre*, and that as the suspected man's writing was *dextrogyre* and that of the document on which he was accused was *sinistroyre*, his guilt was proved, because only a double-dyed traitor would so disguise and falsify his own handwriting.

The next article, headed "The Disappointing Abyssinian Treaty" begins:—

The Abyssinian treaty is a most disappointing document, so disappointing after the triumphant reference in the Queen's Speech that we are almost forced to the conviction that the published treaty is a "blind" and that the real agreement is still held in reserve. If the treaty published last Friday (Treaty Series No. 2, 1898) is the only result of Mr. Rennell Rodd's mission to Menelik, then Prince Henri of Orleans' account of the reception of the English Envoy was not very misleading, and trouble between England and Abyssinia is inevitable.

The article goes on to explain why the treaty is so unsatisfactory.

We take the following notes from the *Spectator*:—

It is almost sickening to read the news from China. The beast is so huge that it cannot die, but it receives a new wound every moment, and groans in helpless anguish. The Japanese have informed Peking that they will grant no extension of time for the payment of the next indemnity; and the Chinese Government, afraid to borrow of England or of Russia, has opened an internal loan, which the wealthy are expected to fill up, though the last one was repudiated. At the same time, they have paid an indemnity of £4,500 to France for the kidnapping of a Frenchman by Chinese pirates in *Tongking*. It is reported

from China that this demand, which is opposed to all international usage, was only conceded because the French threatened, if it were not, to make a demand for territorial compensation "in the South." France, in fact, is determined to have "her share," which will be Hainan, and will speedily produce some other, and possibly less cynical, pretext. She has, in fact, a fairly good one always at her disposal. Chinese "pirates"—or are they smugglers?—are always crossing the Tongkingese frontier, and she can hold Peking, which hardly knows where Tongking is, responsible for a raid. Query for naturalists.—Can leeches kill a whale?

The English version of the Treaty with Menelik was published on Thursday. The main points are that Menelik gets an advantageous rectification of boundaries in Somaliland and a right to import goods and arms free of duty from the port of Zeyla. We, on the other hand, have secured to us the most-favoured-nation treatment. Menelik also promises to prevent arms for the Mahdists being obtained through his dominions, and declares them to be the "enemies of his Empire." The successful conclusion of the Treaty reflects the greatest possible credit on Mr. Rodd's diplomacy, and the Treaty generally must be regarded as enormously strengthening our position in the Nile Valley. As long as Menelik lives we need not feel nervous about the right bank of the Nile.

In its first leading article, headed "The General Outlook," the *Spectator* says that the leaders of the Government, though they have no fear of losing the majority in Parliament, are anything but cheerful, because they realise that England, "which they care about as strongly as about themselves, is watched and envied and intrigued against by very powerful enemies, or rather rivals, for they are not inspired by hatred so much as by hopes of gain." The Concert of Europe is breaking up and the Sultan of Turkey may assert himself. We are engaged in conquering Ethiopia, and are still carrying on an unsuccessful and unsatisfactory war on the Indian frontier. We are almost, under Mr. Chamberlain's guidance, driving France into fighting us in West Africa, and "we are at the same moment on the threshold of a struggle, which may be an armed struggle, for the greatest business prize in the world, the future trade of China, for which three other Great Powers are eagerly laying plans, and even preparing fleets and armies. It is really no exaggeration to say that we might at any hour receive a telegram which would show that the avoidance of war had become almost an impossibility." There is great danger, the *Spectator* thinks, in the warlike feeling now burning up in England, and Lord Salisbury's wise words of warning should be taken to heart:—

We are no "Little Englanders," nor have we any sentimental horror of war, which may sometimes be a much less misfortune than a discreditable peace. We would have fought two Powers combined if we could thereby have saved the Armenians from the grasp of the Turk, and would accept the challenge of all Europe rather than quit Egypt or give up our clear moral right and treaty right to our share of the trade of China. But we would have every question treated with the gravity and thoughtfulness which become Christian men who are asked to shoot down their fellow beings in heaps and who in shooting them may imperil the hopes of the world, which largely depend upon the survival of Great Britain as a moderating and regulating power in the eternal conflict of the peoples, the dynasties, and the races. We alone maintain the principle that the whole world should be thrown open to commercial intercourse. We alone have the art, be it from selfishness, be it from a peculiar kind of disagreeable magnanimity, of so governing dark races that our rule has been rightly described by great observers as the best historic example of "vivifying despotism." We alone bear with unmoved lips and unshrinking hearts the very insolences of outside criticism, content if we can only rescue among the flow of molten words some little gem of guidance that is worth treasuring for a calmer hour. We

must not risk our great place, our mighty influence, our direct responsibility for a fifth of the human race on any but the gravest cause. Above all, we must not forget that, great as our powers are and our resources, we cannot expend them everywhere at once without bringing them to an end; that to fight France in West Africa, Germany in the Eastern Mediterranean, and Russia in China all at once is, unless we are coerced by aggression, a mad adventure from which a solid people should shrink.

There is a good article on "The Ministry and the Frontier War," the *Spectator* declaring that "if this war was not from beginning to end a discreditable muddle, no such thing as a muddled war ever occurred in this world." One absurdity of it is that the Zakkah Khels, who are still most persistent in holding out against us, would just as readily take service with us, and we could raise three regiments of them instantly, and rely on them to fight for us in China as if they were Englishmen. An article on "M. Hanotaux's Latest Speech" shows how brittle at the moment is the Russo-French alliance, Russia getting all the advantages of it, and treating France almost as a negligible quantity.

France does not like to play a secondary rôle in any drama—"Where France fights," said Napoleon III. in a message to Cavour, "she also commands"—and Russia can play only the first one. Her plans are too fixed, her interests too peremptory, her people too assured of their immunity from invasion. She cannot alter her course in Constantinople, in Peking, or in Teheran, in order to gratify France. She can do great things for herself, and can make great demands on her people, but a war which was clearly commenced for the benefit of France would excite the kind of popular disapproval to which the strongest Governments must yield. Moreover, the statesmen of Russia have to cope with a difficulty of which those of France know little. They are the servants of an absolute master, who may from his personal experience, or his dynastic connections, or any other cause, prefer a policy which is not theirs, but which, as in the Prince George case, they must strenuously carry out. Men so situated are compelled to claim the lead in order to defend their own positions, and it is the loss of the lead on all occasions under which M. Hanotaux frets, and which makes him doubt every now and then whether France is really playing a part creditable to her traditions. Some day the doubt may, in his mind or that of a successor, become a fixed conviction, and then the present arrangements of the Continent will be upset, as they were when Cardinal Richelieu took the helm, and framed an entirely new policy to be carried out through new alliances. The time for that change has not arrived, but to resent the conduct of an ally is the first preparatory step towards breaking an alliance, and if France is not resenting the conduct of Russia all the signs deceive us.

There is a good article on "The Chances of War over Cuba," which concludes with what must be the feeling of every one who has any humanity in him:—"The only hope is in the United States sternly declaring that the Spanish troops must leave the island, and then the Cubans must be allowed to settle their own fate, and to decide whether they will have autonomy or independence. That the United States would be morally justified in saying that the war must now end, and Cuba be given peace, we do not doubt for a moment." The Cubans have not been the only sufferers; the Spanish troops—boy recruits without physique or knowledge, and without leaders or helpers or friends of any kind—have died and are dying almost by hundreds of thousands.

The *Investors' Review* has a trenchant article on "Shipping Bounties and Shipping 'Rings,'" the conclusion of which is:

That such a system should be permitted to exist at the end of this nineteenth century, with the boasted progress in "liberty," and so on, is a startling fact; but it does exist, and the British Parliament, by its weakness, its readiness to do the bidding of the perman-

ent officials, its subservience to shipowners, and its general helplessness, is mainly responsible for the evil. It is an evil which is garotting our foreign trade; above all, our trade with India and the further East, and with Australia. But you will find the men most responsible for its institution and maintenance the loudest, usually, in boasting about the "greatness of the Empire," "the necessity for British interests to be supreme in the world," and so on, and so on. And the cloudy-headed multitude thinks them "first-class patriots." To doubt the wisdom or expediency of paying the shamefully excessive bounties we have mentioned is to be in the language of these ardent Imperialists, "a Little Englander." But they share with the Germans, these same immaculate Imperial patriots, and where they cannot do that they allow our trade to escape us and pass to the foreigner. Oh, British public, what an ass you are!

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

The February number of *Cassell's Magazine* just to hand is, as usual, bright, newsy, and entertaining. Headon Hill continues his thrilling romance of Klondyke "Spectre Gold," and amongst the other bright features we might quote from Mr. F. H. Williamson's article on the delicate subject of "Girls":—

The girls of to-day are generally healthy and very often clever. They have twice as much of education as ever fell to the lot of their less educated mothers, and in the matter of hygienics they go very far indeed, riding many miles on their bicycles or horses, walking with the guns, or playing golf; while in town they may resort to skating at Niagara, to fencing, or to gymnastics. Another feature of change is that nowadays it is rather the exception than the rule when a girl is not well dressed. However simple her garments may be they are generally well made, and of a material beyond reproach. It is not necessary that she should invariably be dressed in white—in fact, of late years it has been rather the fashion for girls to appear in simple frocks of black tulle. In the country she will wear coats and skirts with delicate blouses of muslin and lace, or silk shirts; while her evening dresses are elegant as well as graceful; and although in the way of tea-gowns she may not—in fact, could not—vie with the young married women, she can look dainty enough at tea time in the pretty silk frocks which saw their first light at Ascot or some Royal garden-party. Really, nowadays, a girl's wardrobe is no immaterial item of household expenses. Like the elder members of her sex, she must have ball-gowns, dinner-gowns, gowns for morning wear, and gowns for garden-parties. Then there are dresses, too, for country visits, and bicycling suits for winter and summer, as well as the necessary Busvine habit.

The *Quirer* in an admirably written article entitled "Love in the Slums" shows how the poor in their correspondence have an opportunity of exhibiting their phlegmatic character. The subjoined clipping from Mr. Sparrow's contribution is both amusing and characteristic. It is from a street scavenger at Hackney to a girl at Shoreditch to whom he had been engaged just one week:—

"Dear Nell.—You'll be surprised ter hear feythur's dead, so don't giv me a red tie fur my birthday. A million kisses from yer lovin Joe. Wud yer like ter come ter the buryin? It wud be an outin."

Here's another from a girl who had been engaged to two men at once, but wanted to clear the way for a third.

"Darling Sam,—Maybe you've heard I've taken up with Dick; he has the tin. You can keep the choker [comforter] I worked for you. For a weddin present you might buy me a teapot. Say if yer want to see me spiced. Dick joins in luv. "Tina."

To the other lover she wrote :—

"Darling Bill,—It's off with Sam and on with Dick. I send you back all the kisses yer gave me. There was nothin else I think but sweets, and them I swallowed. May God forgive me if I've been a wicked girl. With love and kisses. "Tina."

To the same periodical His Grace the Duke of Devonshire contributes an article on the subject of hospitals, their claims and reforms, a subject on which he is eminently capable of expressing opinions. In the course thereof he states :—

London is so vast that it is difficult for its inhabitants to realise the sense of common citizenship, and of the obligations which we owe to one another, which prompts the inhabitants of smaller communities to do that which is required in an undertaking of this character. I think that those who are engaged in the management of hospitals, and in maintaining the existence of these great, necessary, beneficent, and indispensable institutions, are eminently deserving, not only of our sympathy—which I am sure we are all ready to give—but also of our active support. For they are working under circumstances of very great difficulty in an arduous, and I am afraid I must describe it in an uphill, work of providing what in other parts of the country are provided without any such efforts on the part of those who are interested in the management of these hospitals. . . . Experience has shown that the springs of charity are not inexhaustible, and that if you make a special demand upon those springs in one direction, their outflow may fall off in some other direction. It may be—probably is—a certain temptation to many to see their names upon lists of great subscriptions, headed by noble and illustrious names. It may be a great temptation to place their names upon such lists rather than to continue less noticed, less conspicuous subscriptions which they have been wont to give to institutions such as this, for which they are not less required; and I am afraid that the Jubilee year, which has brought forth so many claims for charitable support for an enormous variety of objects, may be found to be one rather trying to such institutions.

Of the almost countless publications of Messrs Cassell none is more welcome to a large section of the community than *Work*. It is invariably stocked with useful hints and valuable suggestions to the amateur workman and February's number is as instructive as of yore

Outports.

CHUNGKING.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE LEECHUEN.

We are just ashore after a most exciting trip. We have got over all our difficulties with the *Leechuen*, and reached Tangchatō, the Customs station below this, at 3 p.m. yesterday, and waited by the request of the Reception Committee till 9 a.m. to-day, when the Foreign Community here came down to welcome us, and we made a triumphal entry into the port with about fifty people on board, and were deluged with firecrackers. The Chinese sent half-a-dozen gunboats to meet us; we had an unusually fine, sunny day, and it was a pretty sight. An address of welcome was read, signed by the whole community, including the British Consul, Mr. Tratman, who, however, did not put in an appearance. So the voyage, which often *en route* I had despaired of bringing to a successful termination, came to a happy end. We had to wait two days below here while we sent a messenger overland for coals; we came with only one pump since the 28th of

February, and had much difficulty in keeping water in the boiler.

Four days back, by full moon, we were running full speed in a gorge with dead slack water, apparently unfathomable, when we ran on a sunken rock, and knocked a hole under our cabin up which a fountain spouted; nothing but rock walls on either side; fortunately I noticed a little patch of sand ahead, and beached the *Leechuen* just before the fires would have been put out. We baled the water out, working the whole night—our steam pump is only a toy,—patched up the leak, and came on half-speed since. But for innumerable accidents we should have done the voyage in ten days instead of twenty, but *Dei gratia* we are now happily moored in the port, and to-day's triumph is well worth our previous trouble.

ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE.

9th March.

COREA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WILY BEAR.

We have been treated to the spectacle of a complete somersault in the political world, as remarkable as it is unexpected. It is the apparent withdrawal of Russia from the dominant position she had secured in Corea. It began over Russia's demand for land, first on Deer Island at Fusan, and then at the new ports. At the latter places she wanted 280,000 metres at each point for her consulates. This would have been a good part of the foreign concessions. After some discussion and diplomatic meetings Russia withdrew this absurd demand, but seemed determined to secure the coal godown site on Deer Island. In the meantime the

RUSSO-COREAN BANK OPENED

its offices in Seoul as a sort of Korean Treasury department and national bank combined, and, of course, got everything in the way of finance immediately. Then the Koreans began to kick. The Government being absolutely under the control of the creatures of the interpreter at the Russian legation, little could be expected from them. But the Independence Club, of which much has been heard, took the matter up and memorialised the King and hauled up the Minister of Foreign Affairs who had written to Mr. de Speyer a dispatch giving the Deer Island concession, in a manner public and embarrassing in the extreme. Some hot-heads about the same time, probably to avenge a personal affront, attempted to cut down the Russian interpreter but failed. Then the

COUNCIL OF STATE RESIGNED,

frankly telling the Emperor that our Korean Rip Van Winkle, who is Minister of Foreign Affairs, was sufficient to run the government and they would retire. In the meantime the excitement spread. The Russian guard was reinforced by fifty men. The people became more outspoken against Russia, and then Mr. de Speyer

WROTE A DISPATCH

in the usual terms diplomatically traditional to such occasions, but, to the surprise of all, demanding of the Korean government whether they were going to retain the Russians in control of military and finance measures! The Koreans saw their chance and to Mr. de Speyer came a reply signed by the very man who had incurred so much odium in order to serve Russia in the Deer Island matter, to the effect that Corea would dispense with the Russian advisers and employes. To one familiar with the facts the Korean dispatch is a rich one, full of honeyed phrases and sugared sarcasm, written undoubtedly by someone else than our Rip Van Winkle, the Foreign Minister, who probably woke up long enough to affix his signature and then dropped asleep again. In the meantime

the Russians in the palace have been withdrawn to the legation and every one is waiting to see whether Mr. de Speyer's dispatch was a bluff or a serious proposition. In any case the Russians have been placed in a most awkward position. The next move is awaited with interest.

GENERAL.

All the other Powers are watching the movements of the game with a peculiar smile. A flutter was caused a few days ago by the arrival of a Russian transport from Vladivostok, but she brought only 56 marines and an officer to relieve part of the local guard. There are in Chemulpo two small Russian gunboats, one Japanese, the first in many a month, and two British, the *Undaunted* and one other. Seoul, 19th March.

ICHANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

The saying accredited to a distinguished American in reference to the meteorological propensities of the British Isles, might, with a certain degree of veracity, be attributed to this part of the extensive dominion of H.L.M. the Emperor Kuang Hsi. "You have an atmosphere but no climate," gives an ostensible indication of what we have had to endure during the last few days. To recapitulate the present anomalous tendencies of the elements would require the introduction of a detailed table of observations. At present the skies are dark and overcast, the much-looked-for luminary only appearing at spasmodic intervals to brighten our horizon or cast its exhilarating and rejuvenescent influences in our immediate vicinity.

CONSULAR MOVEMENTS.

Mr. Clennell, H.B.M. Consul at Shasi, was a recent visitor at Ichang. He left again for Shasi, per C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Kiding*.

MR. HAAS,

the French Consul at Chungking, passed here a few days ago in company with his good lady, *en route* for that port. Mr. Haas is justly distinguished for the fertility of his mind. He has just returned from France, and, among the many schemes to receive the initiative at Chungking, the erection of a new Consulate takes a primary place. From this edifice schemes of more or less importance will undoubtedly have their inception. The rich province of Szechuan, with the neighbouring provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow, are sufficient to resuscitate and devote zeal and cupidity in matters political and mercantile. Then, the prospect of diverting British commerce (though in itself remote) can at least be viewed from that interesting centre. No doubt the advent of

MR. DUCLOS,

mining engineer, in the interests of the Lyons Commission, has caused the French commercial star to ascend, as there are minerals of more intrinsic value than salt looming in his mind's eye. This gentleman who travelled in company with the French Consul, has also proceeded to Szechuan, where he may derive such information as will incite the interest of those under whose auspices he has undertaken this tour of investigation. When finished, he will institute a process of elimination that will tax their mental energies for some considerable time to come.

MISSIONARY NEWS.

During the past fortnight quite a series of events have happened in the missionary circle. Mr. Hope Gill has just returned from furlough, and is now on his way up the river in company with his wife and two young ladies of the C. M. Society. Mr. G. Hunter and family left last week for home, after an absence of eight years spent in various parts of China. Others have come

to subdue us, not by force of arms, but by means of music and song, like the Dionysus of the Greeks; then Osiris-like have taken their departure and gone to distant regions in order that other spheres might be blessed by similar charms.

TRADE

is in a fair state of prosperity. The steamers come with good cargoes, though it would be impossible to conceive of their arrival at more irregular intervals.

THE POSTAL SERVICE

continues to be conducted with the utmost satisfaction. As the postmaster has recently been settling his house in order, any future developments will no doubt receive his careful and immediate attention.

17th March.

NANKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A DARING ROBBERY

was committed here on Thursday evening. During the early evening, before many of the business houses were closed, four men entered one of the large native banks on one of the busiest streets of the city, and while two of the men closed the street door, the other two, flourishing weapons, demanded from the startled clerks to hand over what money they had. Although the number of persons in the bank exceeded the number of robbers, they were unarmed and helpless before the desperate characters who threatened to kill them if their wishes were not immediately complied with, and they handed over sixteen hundred taels of silver. The robbers made their escape before any one was able to arrest or follow them. Three arrests were made yesterday but they proved to be persons going to Shanghai to exchange dollars, other bankers of the city. Such a robbery inside the city and on one of the chief business streets is considered

A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.

Only about a month ago two robbers who had been holding up people outside the city were beheaded. Some have sought to explain recent lawlessness and theft by the presence of the poor people who came here for the regular distribution of rice, but they are too pitifully poor and weak to undertake the daring and cunning depredations from which Nanking has suffered recently. One of the foreign residences was entered a few nights ago and over one hundred dollars' worth of things carried off. The Magistrate promptly deposited with the loser the full value of the articles in dollars, which are to be retained should the articles not be found.

RUMOURS.

It is reported that with the beginning of the third month the office of *Tung Pao Xia Chu*, and its subordinate departments, are to be dispensed with, the work heretofore done by that office to be added to the district magistrate's. Also, that there are to be no assistant deputies appointed. All this is to reduce the expenses of government and help China out of her difficulties.

It is also reported that Shen Tun-ho, who has been the efficient Director of the New Army Administration, is to take charge of the Naval College here. He is well and favourably known in Nanking, both among foreigners and natives, and his return will be generally welcomed.

OUR MALOO

still continues to be one of the distinguishing features of our city and is not only a great success but is demonstrating what was long ago observed, that a good road is one of the most potent civilising influences among a people. The officials have been considering a plan of extending the same kind of a road to all parts of the city, constructing it and keeping it in repair by levying a tax on the residential and business

property of the city. The wider streets to be remodelled first and others changed as it becomes possible.

THE WEATHER.

March came in like a lion and has been giving us weather that is far from lamb-like. An unusual amount of snow has caused great suffering among the poor. Many have died from want and cold.

18th March.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

REUTER

is the chief disturber of our peace, echoing as he does the eastern thunder of the indefatigable *Times*' agent in Peking. No confirmation whatever can here be obtained of the startling news with which this latter gentleman weekly disturbs the equanimity of the Hon. George Curzon, to say nothing of the politicians of three continents. This is not to be wondered at, for since Li Hung-chang left us we have subsided into our normal position as a trade centre. Political news, except such as comes as back-wash from Peking, is not now obtainable here. The native officials, however, show a remarkably keen interest in the foreign telegrams; their excitement is steadily rising and with it their credulity. Shanghai and Southern readers must be prepared to receive Tientsin news emanating from native sources in a spirit of liberal scepticism. Last week we were favoured with a wonderful account of the Russian squadron intercepting and seizing a German iron vessel; the iron vessel promptly became an ironclad, and then was promoted to the flagship of Prince Henry of Prussia. As a matter of fact at the present moment Northern residents know next to nothing of the situation; the more wary foreigners take the panic-striking telegrams of the Peking news-agents *cum grano*, and believe the crisis, serious as it is in all conscience, to be less acute than it is made out to be.

THE ANNUAL VICEREGAL DINNER

to the Consuls, employés, and distinguished residents was a success—chiefly of the amphitryonic order. The oratory was as profuse, ornate, and well tendered as the "chow," and was perfectly harmless. Messrs. Tei (Consular doyen), and Tsai (Interpreter to H.E. Wang) excelled themselves and delivered unimpeachable sentiments in unimpeachable English *ore rotundo*. The festive harmony was intensified by two military bands led by foreigners; these under the influence of artistic rivalry, excelled themselves and gave the guests music galore.

THE CONDITION OF THE RIVER

is really the most engrossing subject just now: a few days after the navigation opened, a cold snap came along; after some vacillation it decided to stay, and consequently creeks, ponds, and shallows refroze, drift ice accumulated, got caught in the congested bends, and lol for eight or ten days the Peiho has been as firmly blocked as ever it has been since it became a river. Ice floating below the surface has managed also to get jammed and so we have the astounding phenomenon of ice ten feet thick in some parts of the channel. The block is complete: vessels above cannot get down, nor those down-stream get up. Not a few native craft are caught hard, and fast in the ice: and there they have to stay till the clerk relents or changes his mind. I think I am right in saying that there were thirty steamers at the Bar and in Tangku yesterday, awaiting dispatch. A large number of lighters and tow boats is up here, so that the Bar facilities are lessened. The China Merchants have been able to do just a little in the way of unloading by taking advantage of their new ground at Tangku.

SOCIALLY

we are quiet. A happy conceit is to be realised this week in private life. Three ladies are to assemble their dinner parties in one house later in the evening, and each guest is either so dressed or wearing such symbols as will convey to the well-read and the riddle-guesser the name of a well-known book: e.g., a handsome black eye may stand for "Hard Hit," a straight flush for "Bound to Win." The idea is quite novel to Tientsin. We also hear proposals for the future of a Dickens Ball, a Pickwick or Copperfield Dance in which the costumes would be limited to the author or works assigned.

GENERAL.

Sir Claude Macdonald is to be asked to be present at the opening of the Anderson Pavilion on Easter Monday, when it is hoped we may get up a good cricket match.

Messrs. Twinning and Morse are to give a concert here on Friday. Some curiosity is felt as to how a show (so far) apparently single-handed as far as the art is concerned will come off. Just as luck will have it, our port is exceedingly strong just now in good vocal amateurs; indeed we have one singer with whom high-class professionals might be proud to be associated.

The *Mikado* is in active rehearsal and will be mounted after Easter.

At the moment of closing the river gives signs of opening; the ice barrier is now only serious in Boad's Bend. The weather has suddenly become genial and spring-like.

15th March.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WEEK.

There is little news of interest to record during the past week. The weather has continued fine and cool for March. In the interior they are suffering from want of rain, and it is feared that unless the welcome showers come soon the rice crops will prove very short.

The Brough Comedy Company continue to perform nightly to crowded houses, and many ardent lovers of the play take care not to miss a single performance.

PRINCE HENRY.

The *Deutschland* went into dock at Kowloon on the 14th inst., and H. R. H. Prince Henry of Prussia became the guest of the acting Governor at Government House. On the afternoon of the 14th General and Mrs. Black gave a garden party at Government House, which was numerously attended. The Prince took part in this function, and earned golden opinions by his pleasant demeanour. He undoubtedly bears a striking resemblance to his distinguished father, Frederick the Noble. On the 15th inst His Royal Highness dined with Mr. and Mrs. Siebs. No one in the Teutonic community could more fittingly entertain the Prince than the genial and much esteemed head of the fine old house of Siemssen & Co. On the 17th inst. H.R.H. went to Canton in the steamer *Hankow*, and at Whampoa he was met by a gunboat sent by the Viceroy. On arrival at Canton the Prince was received on the Wharf by the Viceroy and the Governor, who accompanied him to the German Consulate at Shameen. The party then proceeded to the Viceregal *yamen*, where the Prince was entertained at a banquet. They returned to the Consulate at five o'clock. In the evening there was a great display of Chinese fireworks in honour of the distinguished visitor.

THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THIS COLONY.

During all the discussion and negotiations on the Chinese Question we have, until the other day, had no reference through Reuter's

agency or in the home papers to the desired extension of the boundaries of Hongkong. On the 14th inst., however, Mr. Curzon stated in the House of Commons that the steps required for the proper security of Hongkong had been occupying the attention of the Government for some time. As these embrace the acquisition of Mifs Bay and the islands to the south of Hongkong, it would seem as though the *Birmingham Post* was speaking by book the other day when it stated that an enlargement of the British concession at Kowloon may be looked for at no distant date even if it be not a direct consequence of the present negotiation. So mote it be. We shall not be secure until this extension has been gained.

ATTACK ON AN OFFICIAL.

Yesterday morning about 9 a.m., a daring attack was made by two Chinese upon Mr. Bryan, Sanitary Inspector, while walking down Magazine Gap Road. One of the ruffians who was armed with a spade struck at Mr. Bryan with it and inflicted a cut across the head, which would have been serious had he not partly warded it off with his stick. The men effected their escape, but they will probably be arrested, as it is believed they are workmen who bore a grudge against the inspector. The spade has been identified.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE TO THE FAR EAST.

The Hamburg-American line steamer *Andalusia* from Hamburg, left Singapore for this port on the 17th inst. and will arrive probably on Tuesday. This is the first steamer of a new regular monthly service by this important line to Eastern Asia, calling at Penang, Singapore, Hongkong, Shanghai, Kobe, and Yokohama. New vessels will be employed on the line with a burden of 8,000 tons and a speed of about 12 knots. Larger and faster passenger steamers will be run if and when the need arises. Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. are the agents for the new line.

SUDDEN DEATHS.

An inquest is now proceeding to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. H. Cook, Secretary and Manager of the New Club, which occurred recently. From the medical evidence it is tolerably clear that he died from an overdose of chloral.

On Thursday afternoon Alfred Feltham, a ward-master in the Government Civil Hospital, was found dead in bed in his quarters in that institution. There were no suspicious circumstances in the case, and the deceased, who was quite a young man, was generally liked. Probably heart disease.

SINGAPORE AND THE PLAGUE.

The plague is a real bogey to our Singapore neighbours. Considerable indignation was kindled on Saturday last by the action of the Straits Government in declaring this port infected because plague was sporadic here. The cases have been few, and were rapidly declining to *nil* when the proclamation was made. It is open to question whether plague is not present, more or less, in the spring, like small-pox, in all parts of South China. Formerly it was dubbed fever or cholera, because we were unaware of the buboes, and the Chinese called it fever simply. While the filthy and insanitary condition of their towns continues the disease will find perennial hotbeds in which to fester. In Hongkong the slums are now purified and the disease should die out.

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD.

The annual meeting of shareholders in this institution was held on the 12th inst. when the report and accounts (a summary of which I have already given) were adopted unanimously. The Chairman expressed regret at their inability to pay a dividend, but said arrangements had been made to exercise the greatest economy and he hoped a better result would be achieved next year.

THE CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

As foreshadowed in a previous letter, the report to be presented to the shareholders of the above company at their annual meeting fixed for the 23rd inst., is a highly favourable one. The net gain on working account for the year amounts to \$508,753.31, of which \$80,000 has already been applied to payment of an interim dividend of 4 per cent. It is proposed to apply \$75,000 to reduction of property account, \$140,000 to formation of equalisation of dividend fund, to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent (making 14 per cent in all), and to carry the balance of \$13,743.31 to new account. I think that all investors will applaud the step proposed to be taken to form a reserve for equalisation of dividends: it is required not only to assure investors of their interest, but to steady the stock and give it more stability.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LD.

The first meeting of the newly formed Punjom Mining Co., Ltd. was held on the 14th inst., when the Chairman stated that the reports from the new Manager, Mr. Philipps, continued to be very satisfactory, and he thought the prospects of the Company were excellent. He then read a letter from Mr. Bailey, who is now in London, who stated that he had not been able to succeed in securing the necessary capital to prospect, develop, and purchase the mines according to the terms conceded, and after some discussion it was decided to give Mr. Bailey notice to terminate the agreement under which he had been authorised to form a company to take over the Punjom Mines.

NAVAL NEWS.

Movements in the man-of-war anchorage this week have not been numerous. The British dispatch vessel *Alaric*, having Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour on board, arrived here on the 14th inst. from Chusan, and the torpedo-boat destroyer *Handy* arrived with her. On the 17th inst. the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* arrived here from Naples. This ship, an armoured cruiser of 4,583 tons' displacement, is heavily armed and has a speed of 19 knots. She will, it is reported, be followed shortly by the cruisers *Vettor Pisani*, *Lombardia*, and the *Giovanni Bausan*, which will make up the Italian squadron in the East. The British cruiser *Edgar* returned here from Manila yesterday. It is rumoured that the new first-class battleship *Goliath*, about to be launched at Chatham, is to be fitted with all possible expedition, and dispatched to China.

Hongkong, 19th March.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.)

AN OLD CUSTOM.

Prior to the opening of Parliament which took place on Tuesday the quaint custom of "hunting for Guy" was once more gone through. Some hours before the Speaker took the chair the gentleman usher of the Black Rod accompanied by an Inspector, the yeomen of the guard and various other attendants, made a tour of the entire house, commencing with the Princes' Chamber, going steadily through every room, passage, and vault, and finally finishing up with the House of Lords, after which survey they reported that neither the historic gentleman nor any of his descendants were anywhere in hiding, and that members of both the Upper and Lower Houses might rest assured that they could legislate in safety. There may be those who laugh at this ancient custom still being preserved, but in these days of anarchists and dynamite plots it is probably far more necessary than in the days when it was first inaugurated.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

promises plenty of legislation. The army and navy are both to be considerably strengthened. Ireland is to have a local government bill and the sugar bounties question is to receive special attention. Lord Salisbury's speech dealt mainly with affairs in China—it was most masterly in style and has been very well received by the country generally. Great disappointment is felt that the loan proposals have fallen through. On Sunday there was a report that matters had been satisfactorily arranged with Great Britain, and the *Sunday Special*, a new and up-to-date Sunday paper, had an article on the subject in which they said: "In the new field laid open to our manufacturers there is such opportunity for immediate development as has not been known since India was first laid open to European competition." After this it was very sad that on Monday the rumours were found to be premature.

THE LIBERAL FORWARDS.

I was at a meeting of this body last week at the Queen's Hall. They met to condemn the policy of the Government in Eastern Europe, India, and South Africa, to assert the claims of Labour, and to commend the progressive policy of the London County Council. Mr. G. W. E. Russell was in the chair. The principal speakers were Dr. Clifford (who has lately returned from a tour round the world and had a great reception), and Mr. F. S. Mendl, the newly elected member for Plymouth. Of course the Government came in for the severest censure possible. The Chairman said they were a proverb all over the world for helpless, hopeless acquiescence in wrong-doing. Dr. Clifford went almost further. He said the moral and political condition of our country was so full of portent of disaster that every Englishman would be filled with apprehension concerning the future of his country whether he belonged to the Liberal, the Radical, or the Tory party. The fact of the matter was that the country was under the heel of an oppressive and immoral Toryism. Since 1815 we had not been enmeshed in such a series of internal complications as to-day. Speaking of the Concert of Europe, he said it was an atrophy of the conscience and a degradation of our life. Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain, or, as they called him, "the new Disraeli," and Mr. Cecil Rhodes all came in for about an equal amount of blame for the part they are playing in ruining the country, one great accusation made against Mr. Chamberlain being that he wished to make Birmingham instead of London the capital of England. Mr. Rhodes was held responsible for the "infamous raid organised by mercenary money-grubbers and executed by Bedlamites and cut-throats." Altogether the main object of the meeting seemed to be to censure everyone except the working man—the honest son of toil, who is to have comfortable quarters provided for him in his old age, and not be compelled through lack of means to go to the workhouse or any such degrading abode. It seemed to me a pity that a little advice was not given on the avoidance of strikes, the most fruitful source of poverty in these days. A few days ago I saw a statement as to the total loss incurred by masters and men in the late Engineers' strike, and it totalled up to the enormous sum of £10,376,000, the loss of the men being estimated at £4,680,000, and that of the masters (through loss of trade, etc.) at £5,696,000. The lesson to be learnt from these figures is too obvious to need comment.

MR. CECIL RHODES

is again in town and looking very well. In an interview with a D. T. reporter he spoke very lightly of the severe illness with which he has been credited. "I did have a touch of fever," he said, "but not much of

it, just a few days and it slightly affected my heart." Speaking of the Transcontinental telegraph he said: "In two months' time our line will be opened at Tete on the Zambesi and this whole line from Untali to Tete will be completed within two months, all the wire is on iron poles and so far there have been no breakdowns or stoppages." He was very amusing on the score of English people and their love of a safe five per cent interest. In answer to a question he said: "Yes, I admire them and their Press and they all praise my dreams. Yes, that's the word, but until they see five per cent they don't put their money into my undertakings. They extol the effect of rail and wire as civilising agencies but no money is forthcoming and the banks sit tight, but once five per cent is in sight then their practical philanthropy provides all we require."

A NEW DEPARTURE.

A daily newspaper has just been started in Paris, the staff of which is entirely composed of women. Even the "office boys" are girls, no men are employed at all and so far the sales have been so great that at any rate for the present, its success seems assured. Strange to say such a venture would not be possible in England, or at any rate it could contain no Parliamentary news, as here women journalists are not allowed in the House. Some few weeks ago a friend of mine had an offer from a firm to write a weekly Parliamentary letter for an Indian paper. Before accepting she wrote to Mr. Erskine, the sergeant-at-arms, asking if she might have a reporter's ticket for the Ladies' Gallery, or any other part of the House, for this purpose. The reply, though most courteous, was in the negative. No part of the House was open to her, the ladies' gallery being entirely reserved for the friends of members. They are evidently more liberal in their ideas in France and it is even suggested that when the next war breaks out this enterprising paper will send their special lady correspondent, who will doubtless receive every consideration from her male confrères.

KING INFLUENZA

is with us again and last Saturday claimed as his victim the Marchesa Di Santurce, better known perhaps as the wife of the once famous Mr. Murietta, who was noted when in the palmy days of his wealth for the prodigality of his entertainments. Since the terrible financial crash which robbed the Muriettas of their wealth they have lived in comparative privacy and the Marchesa died in a house in Eaton Square, where she had resided for some time. Her daughter, Lady William Neville, is much to be pitied as in addition to the shock of her mother's sudden death her husband, Lord William, is in prison awaiting his trial on various charges in the Spender-Clay case, a true bill having been brought in against him and the application for bail refused. It appears that her elder sister, wife of the Duc de Santona, had a settlement of £2,000 a year but Lady William Neville had only an allowance of the same amount, so when the crash came her income ceased, which taken in conjunction with her other troubles makes her lot especially hard.

BAYREUTH IN LONDON.

Next June will witness a new order of things at Covent Garden. We are to have a series of Wagner cycles done as at Bayreuth. The performances are to commence at five o'clock, except on Saturday when they will begin at four. After the first act there will be an interval of an hour and a half for a light dinner, then on again till about eleven in time for supper. It all sounds very odd but every one who has been to one of these cycles at Bayreuth comes back so enchanted that I suppose we shall be too. The prices to be charged for the seats are not at all ex-

sive. A stall for the cycle of four performances will be five guineas; other parts of the house of course less in proportion. So far no terms are quoted for single performances—one is evidently supposed to attend the whole four or none. This in June when so much goes on will be difficult, but perhaps it will arrange itself later on. The casts are published and include Madame Eames, Miss M. Brema, the de Reszkes and many other old favourites. The operas are *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Die Gotterdammerung*. *Der Ring des Niebelungen* is likewise to be given in its entirety, so that lovers of Wagner are likely to have a great treat.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCH.

At the Alhambra just now they have a cinematographic representation of the first Test Match of the present English Cricket team which was played in Sydney on the 16th of December last. I went to see it a few nights ago but was disappointed. Only one view showed the match at all and then it was difficult to recognise the players. Scene two showed Ranjitsinhji at the nets, but he was evidently only moving his bat, about to oblige the photographer as no ball was to be seen. The other two views were of the Australians and Englishmen leaving the field, and again it was quite impossible to recognise most of the players. They have a marvellous ventriloquist there, a man called Nobel. I don't know if he is any relation of the Norwegian who has lately left such an eccentric will, but he certainly deserves the title of "King of ventriloquists," as he walks about first with one dummy and then with two, and makes the man puff away at a cigarette while the woman sings a song, and does such a variety of wonderful things with such lightning rapidity that it is difficult to believe he has no confederate hidden away in lay figures.

ANOTHER GIANT STEAMER.

The *Cymric*, the latest addition to the White Star line, built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff of Belfast, arrived in the Mersey on Friday. She is nearly as large as the *Great Eastern*, being 600 ft. long and 12,500 tons measurement, and is meant for the Atlantic trade. These floating palaces get more and more magnificent but in many respects are not so comfortable as steamers half the size.

J. K.

11th February.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARLIAMENT.

Members in the Commons are still discussing the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, but the last of the amendments is to be disposed of to-night, and on Monday the House will get seriously to work. For years there has been talk both in the House and outside it of the necessity of doing away with this address altogether, or at all events of abolishing the right of faddists to move amendments to it on any conceivable subject. There have been two or three fairly interesting debates this time, but of course they might just as well have taken place at a debating society for all the effect they will have.

JUSTICE TO IRELAND.

We have had a Home Rule debate, instigated by Mr. John Redmond, mainly for the purpose of making the Radical leaders toe the line, and partly to embarrass Mr. John Dillon, the anti Parnellite. But Mr. Redmond's amendment, declaring Home Rule the most urgent of all domestic questions, obtained only 65 supporters, while 233 voted against—figures which quite recalled the old days of Mr. Isaac Butt—the days before Mr. Gladstone committed the bulk of his Party to Home Rule. Then we have an amendment on

the subject of Irish distress, and another proposing amnesty for the Irish political prisoners, and yet another in favour of the establishment of a Roman Catholic university in Ireland. And on Monday, when the address has been disposed of, we are to see the introduction of the Irish Local Government Bill. So the Sister Isle still claims a fair share of the attention of the Imperial Parliament.

THE FRONTIER WAR.

But of greater interest than all these was the two nights' debate on the Indian Frontier policy of the Government. The opening of the attack had been entrusted by the Radical leaders to Mr. Lawson Walton, Q.C., who, by the way had to secure a postponement of the trial of Lord William Nevill, for whose defence he was retained, in order to attend to this parliamentary duty. Lord George Hamilton defended the policy of the Government in what was undoubtedly the most effective speech he has ever delivered in the House of Commons; and if he did not prove conclusively that the "Forward" policy on the North-west Frontier is the best policy, at least he established the fact that the responsibility for that policy rests quite as heavily on the Liberals as on the Conservatives. The division went on strictly party lines, the Government securing a majority of 103. Outside the House the Government has not been doing quite so well. It is true that the Liberals did not dare to contest the Birmingham division which was left vacant by the death of Mr. George Dixon; but in Pembrokeshire Lord Halsbury's impartiality in giving a colonial law appointment to the Radical member has not been rewarded. Mr. Wynford Phillips has increased the Liberal majority from 580 to 1,664, the highest on record in this constituency. At York there is to be a recount, so Lord Charles Beresford sits uneasily in his seat.

SHAKESPEARE

is in the ascendant just now. No fewer than three first-class houses have the Bard of Avon in their programmes. Sir Henry Irving has revived the *Merchant of Venice* at the Lyceum; Mr. Alexander has produced *Much Ado about Nothing* at the St. James's, and Mr. Tree is still playing *Julius Caesar* at Her Majesty's. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Tree gave a private performance, and filled his house with actors and actresses and dramatists and critics. It was a most enthusiastic house, for nobody enjoys playgoing like the actors; and on every side one heard between the acts expressions of surprise and delight at the wonderful stage management of the crowds. Those who remember the visit of the Saxe-Meiningen Company a few years ago, and the praise which were showered on them for their all-round excellence, have to admit that Mr. Beerbohm Tree has nothing to learn from Germany. There is no stroke of genius in his rendering of Mark Antony, but it is a highly praiseworthy performance, and the same may be said of every one of the prominent parts in the play.

BURNT SCENERY.

Sir Henry Irving, by the way, suffered a serious loss last night in the destruction by fire of enormous quantities of scenery and properties which he had stored in two railway arches in Southwark. The London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company runs a train between three and four in the morning with the special object of carrying Fleet-street journalists and printers home after putting their various newspapers to bed, and this morning the train had to run between two fires, issuing one from each side of Sir Henry's store-house in the railway arches. Fortunately all the scenery required in the plays announced for early reproduction is already at the Lyceum, so the loss will not seriously interfere with Sir Henry's arrangements.

AT THE ST. JAMES'S.

Mr. Alexander and Miss Neilson have secured the approval of most of the critics as Benedick and Beatrice, though they complain that Mr. Alexander's Benedick is a little too buoyant and youthful, and Miss Neilson's Beatrice a little lacking in archness.

LORD WILLIAM NEVILL

has pleaded guilty to the charge of fraud in having by false pretences induced Mr. Spender Clay to put his signatures to promissory notes for some fourteen thousand pounds, and Mr. Justice Lawrence has sentenced him to five years' penal servitude. People were a little surprised at the severity of the sentence, but on consideration it is recognised that compared with the punishment inflicted on less highly placed wrong-doers for similar offences it is not too severe.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE

is really to be saved both from the jerry-builder and the vestries. Details of the scheme which is to be submitted to the shareholders have now been published. The nominal capital is to be reduced and at the same time fresh capital is to be brought in. There seems no reason why under good management the Crystal Palace should not return a very good dividend to its shareholders; and as the promoters of the new scheme include some of the largest shareholders in the old company, there is no reason to doubt that the scheme will be carried through. It would be a thousand pities if Paxton's historic palace of windows were to disappear.

18th February.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TRIAL OF EMILE ZOLA.

Popular excitement over the trial of M. Zola has perceptibly diminished since last week, and he is now able to enter and leave the Palais de Justice without danger of personal violence. The price of front places in the pit—I mean the public enclosure—has fallen considerably, much to the disgust of the needy individuals who take up their positions outside the doors at daybreak, in the hope of selling their place when the proceedings begin at noon. The students from the Latin quarter have ceased from troubling, and the police are at rest. It is to be feared that the lull is only temporary. The *adum theologicum* aroused by this case will not subside for a long time to come. The *Libre Parole* and other anti-Semitic organs are doing their best to keep alive the hatred of the Jews. The only tangible result up to the present has been to injure business all over the country. Jewish merchants and tradesmen in France are drawing in their horns and restricting operations until the agitation subsides. Others living abroad are showing their resentment by giving no orders to French travellers.

Inside the Court Maitre Labori and Maitre Clémenceau have kept up a gallant fight for the defence. The Advocate-General has completely subsided and might as well be miles away for any share he takes in the proceedings. In spite of the President's ruling on the opening day, the Dreyfus case has been freely discussed. Experts by the dozen have declared their belief that the *bordereau* was written by Esterhazy. They labour under the disadvantage, however, of not having seen the original, and repeated demands for its production have met with no response. There is a growing belief that the document is no longer in the possession of the War Ministry. There is no doubt it was originally stolen from the German Embassy, and the story—by no means an improbable one—goes that Count Munster in requesting

its return used such significant language that the French Government was obliged to comply. This would explain M. Méline's refusal to discuss the *chose jugée*.

Saturday began with an encounter between Lieut.-Col. Picquart and one of his former colleagues at the War Office—Lieut. Col. Henry. Picquart, the brilliant St. Cyrien, the apostle of light in the Dreyfus affair, pale and nervous but full of determination, presented a curious contrast to Henry, nine years his senior, a big, brawny soldier who has fought his way up from the ranks. The two officers contradicted each other flatly, and finally Henry lost his temper and gave his antagonist the lie direct. Picquart, trembling with suppressed excitement, turned to the jury and declared that Henry, Paty du Clam, and the other staff officers who had given evidence, could not forgive him for not sharing their "blind belief" in the guilt of Dreyfus. Col. Sandherr, the deceased head of the secret intelligence department, "bequeathed the affair" to them and urged them to uphold what had been done, for the honour of the department; and they having been the moving spirits in the prosecution of Dreyfus would do anything rather than admit that they had made a mistake.

Maitre Demange was next called, but, as was only to be expected, he was not allowed to report what he had heard with regard to the secret document communicated to Dreyfus' judges. Subsequently several witnesses were called by the defence to testify to their belief in M. Zola's good faith. Among them was M. Jaurès, the Socialist leader, who seized the opportunity to deliver what was practically a speech for the defence and a violent attack on the Government. M. Jaurès made several very effective points. He declared that the trial of Esterhazy was a mere farce. The *acte d'accusation*, or indictment, was directed not against the accused but against Lieut.-Col. Picquart. This indictment was read in open court, but Picquart's examination was conducted in private and he had no opportunity of publicly refuting the charges made against him. No attempt was made to ascertain the identity of the "veiled lady" who supplied Esterhazy with a photograph of a document kept under lock and key at the War Office. There was evidently collusion between the War Office and Esterhazy, for otherwise he could not have procured the photograph. M. Jaurès concluded by declaring that M. Zola had rendered France an immense service by his efforts in the cause of truth and justice.

The next witness was M. Bertillon, the inventor of the anthropometrical system, who declared at the trial of Dreyfus that the accused wrote the *bordereau*. M. Bertillon is not a graphologist in the ordinary sense of the term, but he has invented a marvellous system by which he claims to be able to decide graphological questions with mathematical exactitude. "Geometrical rhythms," it appears, play an important part in this system. The inventor offered to explain it in detail, but as the demonstration would occupy at least two sittings of the Court, the proposal was received with the utmost disfavour. Maitre Labori produced a copy of a most extraordinary diagram drawn up by M. Bertillon in relation to the handwriting of Dreyfus, and "roasted" the unfortunate expert to such an extent that he refused to answer any more questions, and the public is still awaiting an explanation of those "geometrical rhythms."

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were almost entirely taken up by the examination of graphologists, amateur and professional. One of them, a Belgian lawyer, gave quite an interesting little lecture with the aid of a blackboard, pointing out all the peculiarities common to the *bordereau* and the handwriting of Esterhazy.

Yesterday was devoted to a species of debate sustained by Lieut.-Col. Picquart and counsel for the defence on the one hand, and by the staff officers on the other. It related to the possibility of Esterhazy being acquainted with the artillery manual and the other matters mentioned in the *bordereau*. The staff officers contended that, as an infantry officer, he could not have known anything about them, but under examination they were obliged to modify their attitude. General Gonse admitted it was quite possible that any artillery officer might have shown the manual to the major when the latter was at the manoeuvres. General Gonse also asserted that the *bordereau* must have been written in August, 1894, whereas, all through the trial of Dreyfus, it was treated by the prosecution as having been written in the month of February. General de Pellieux and General Gonse were plied with questions on these contradictions, and finally the former's patience gave way. "I have had enough of this," he exclaimed. "We had further proof of Dreyfus' guilt in 1896. We obtained a letter containing the words: 'Never say anything about the relations we have had with this Jew'" (meaning Dreyfus). This declaration caused a sensation. Maitre Labori immediately called for the production of this document and General de Pellieux excitedly replied that General de Boisdeffre could confirm what he had said. The sitting was suspended while a messenger was despatched for General de Boisdeffre, but as he could not be found the case was adjourned till to-day.

This morning General de Boisdeffre made his appearance at the witness-stand, but beyond a formal confirmation of General de Pellieux' statement, he declined to give any evidence. "I cannot disclose secrets of State," he repeated persistently. Major Esterhazy, when called, adopted a very similar attitude. "I have already been tried and acquitted," he defiantly declared, "and I am not going to answer any questions from those people" (indicating counsel for the defence). The President refused to order the witness to answer, and a deadlock ensued, necessitating an adjournment until to-morrow. This afternoon there was a renewal of fisticuffs in the obbies of the Palais de Justice and there, is excitement in the atmosphere.

18th February.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

12th January.

HARD TIMES IN SZECHUAN.

Kung Shou, Tartar General of Chêngtu and Acting Viceroy of Szechuan, in sending the sum of Tls. 50,000 by a draft on a Peking bank, states that owing to great drains made upon the province for money to prosecute the war against the Mahomedan rebels in Kansu during 1895-6, the Provincial Treasurer and the Salt and Tea Taotais of Szechuan have had considerable difficulty in collecting the accompanying sum of money for transmission to Peking, owing to the revenues of the province having already been hypothecated by loans made on them in order to send sufficient funds to the seat of war in Kansu. The memorialist and his colleagues, however, having in mind the urgent need of funds, at the present crisis, for raising and properly arming the troops of the empire, and that although the said Tls. 50,000 go under

the heading of "Contribution for the Extension of Railway Building," the truth is that it has been transferred to the account for arming the army. Hence extraordinary efforts have been made to raise the quota of money from Szechuan province in order that the Central Government may not find its hands tied for want of funds in the important duty of raising a proper army at the present crisis. The memorialist therefore explains that the said Tls. 50,000 are made up of Tls. 10,000 obtained through subscriptions, Tls. 10,000 from the funds laid by for paying the salaries of the principal staff, and Tls. 30,000 scraped together from the various tax departments, etc. Although the memorialist has been enabled to send the regular quota demanded from Szechuan at this time of the year, he fails to see what funds can be available for the other contributions about to fall due in the near future for transmission to Peking. He, therefore, begs his Majesty to direct the Board of Revenue to note the circumstances under which the enclosed draft of Tls. 50,000 has been sent to Peking.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

13th January.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Board of Astronomy presented this morning to his Majesty a diagram of the anticipated eclipse of the sun on New Year's day (22nd January 1898).

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Board of War asking that officers be appointed to examine our vegetarian diet and fasts during the sacrificial worships required to be offered by us in person during the 1st moon, we hereby appoint P'eng Shou, the Duke of Cho, Hsin Chi, Fu Chu-li, Sé Ling-à, P'u Shan, Hsiang En, and En P'u to undertake the said duties during the next month.

(2) We hereby announce that we intend, after transacting all business of State tomorrow morning, to go to the Southern Lake to pay our usual obeisances to her Imperial Majesty the Empress Dowager, and upon returning to Peking proceed at midday to the Tze-kuang Pavilion to witness the wrestling, matches between Manchus and Mongolians and other athletic games annually held there.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 16th March, 1898, at 4.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. S. Fearon, (Chairman), F. Anderson, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, E. Shellim, A. P. Stokes, J. Welch, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary.

The Summons calling the meeting is taken as read.

The Minutes of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Shanghai Public School.—The annexed correspondence is ordered to be published:

Shanghai Public School.

Shanghai, 12th March, 1898.

SIR,—I am instructed to request the Council to nominate one of their members as their

representative on the Committee of the above School.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN STENHOUSE,
Hon. Sec. Shanghai Public School
Committee.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,

Secretary, Shanghai Municipal Council.

Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 17th March, 1898.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 12th instant, I am now directed to inform you that Mr. E. A. Hewett has been elected, and has consented to serve as the representative of the Council on the Public School Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Secretary.

JOHN STENHOUSE, Esq.,

Hon. Sec. Shanghai Public School
Committee.

Volunteers—Proposed Naval Company.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:—

Head Quarter Office,

Shanghai, 26th February, 1898.

From the Officer Commanding the Corps to the Chairman, the Shanghai Municipal Council.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that 40 of the Mercantile Marine Officers connected with the port of Shanghai have, acting under the auspices of the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, decided to tender their services to the Council to form a Naval Company of the S.V.C. to work the machine guns either afloat or ashore as circumstances may direct.

I have had the pleasure of an interview with them and enclose a letter dated 24th inst., from the Chairman of their Committee, embodying the main points settled, from which you will see the new Company would come in on exactly the same terms as those already forming the Corps.

A special standard of efficiency would of course have to be fixed, as the ordinary avocations of the members would preclude them from putting in the whole of their drills etc. during the usual annual training of the S.V.C. but this and all details in regard to instruction and such things, can be satisfactorily arranged.

I propose to arm them with M. H. carbines and sword bayonets in addition to the machine guns. The uniform worn would be an adaptation of the usual Blue Jacket's one.

The members hope to increase the numbers very largely when once organised and in working order.

I cannot too strongly recommend the acceptance by the Council of this offer, for I am thoroughly convinced that if the new Company should prove a success, and I can see no valid reason why it should not do so, it would be a very valuable addition indeed to the strength of the S.V.C.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL HOLLIDAY,
Major, Commanding S.V.C.M. M. Officers' Association,
Shanghai, 24th February, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 13th January, 1898, relative to the formation of a Naval Volunteer Corps we beg to inform you that a Committee has been formed to carry out your wish and suggestions. We are pleased to say, that up to the present time forty members have placed their names on a list, and are willing to serve in the Naval Brigade. The said members are desirous to place themselves entirely under your control, in conjunction with the Shanghai Volunteers, for the protection of the Settlements.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. J. TAPP,

Chairman of Committee for the
Naval Volunteers.Major HOLLIDAY,
S. V. Corps.Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 9th March.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 26th ult., which has received the careful attention of the Council at its two last meetings. The proposed formation of a Naval Volunteer Company, as there set forth, is a matter which in the opinion of the Council, requires more detailed consideration than can be given to it in the short time during which the Council will remain in office; it has therefore been referred to the immediate attention of the incoming Watch Committee, who will doubtless confer with you on the subject at the earliest possible date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Secretary.Major CECIL HOLLIDAY,
Commanding S.V.C.Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 17th March, 1898.

SIR,—With reference to the interview which took place yesterday between yourself and the Council to discuss your proposals in regard to the formation of a Naval Company of the S.V.C., I am now directed to state that the Council accepts the offer conveyed in your letter of 26th ultimo and sanctions the formation of the proposed Company.

The Council requests that you will convey its thanks to the members of the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association for their public-spirited offer to co-operate in the protection of the Settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Secretary.Major CECIL HOLLIDAY,
Commanding S.V.C.

Works matters.—The following abstract of the Engineer's monthly report for February is submitted and ordered to be published:—

Shanghai Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 23rd March, 1898.

Abstract of the Municipal Engineer's Report for February, 1898.

Works in Progress.

ROAD EXTENSIONS.—The making up, etc., of the following roads:—

Sih King Koan Soo Road.

Jansen Road, south of Yangtzepoo Road.

Fearon Road, between Rifle Range and Scott Roads.

North Honan Road, between Boone Road and Boundary Stone No. 6.

Chaufoong Road, north of Seward Road.

Boone Road, between Chapoo and North Szechuen Roads.

Rifle Range Road, between Fearon Road and Woosung Road.

Thorburn Road, north of Yangtzepoo Road.

Woosung Road, north of Rifle Range Road.

Taepoo Road, between North Kiangse and North Honan Roads.

Chapoo Road, north of Quin'an Road.

Wetmore Road, north of Yangtzepoo Road.

Yangtzepoo Road, 8,621 men have been employed in making up and metalling this road during the month.

PUBLIC MARKETS AND DRILL HALL.—All the iron columns and girders carrying the Drill Hall floor have been erected.

DISTRICT POLICE STATION, WEST HONG-KW.—The internal work is well in hand.

FIRE STATION, HANBURY ROAD.—The concrete foundation and footings are complete.

ROAD EXTENSIONS AND WIDENINGS.—Acquisition of land. Negotiations have taken place in connection with the following road widenings:—

Hankow Road.

Nanking Road.

Tientsin Road.

Amongst other works in progress are—A stable and coachhouse at the Cattle Sheds.

A vaccine station in the Isolation Hospital grounds.

Rebuilding Artillery Gun Sheds, Old Central Station Compound.

Rebuilding wall on southern frontage of Cathedral (Hankow Road widening).

Laying out Public Park, Hongkew.

GENERAL.—678 tons of road material have been brought down from the Quarry and 4,923 tons have been used during the month.

12 applications for permits to build relating to 332 houses have been received.

356 trees have been planted and 75 transplanted.

4,905 pieces of concrete ware have been made.

The average number of labourers employed per day during the month was 1,380.

CHARLES MAYNE,
Municipal Engineer.

Gas Co.'s Contract for Public Lighting.—As the result of the Council's negotiations with the Shanghai Gas Company, the following contract has been made and signed:—

AGREEMENT WITH THE GAS COMPANY.

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into this 14th day of March, 1898, between the Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai (hereafter called the Council) of the one part, and the Shanghai Gas Company (hereafter called the Company) of the other part whereby it is mutually agreed as follows namely:—

1.—The Company shall each and every evening during the term of one year to be computed from the First day of January, 1898, cause to be lighted with gas the public gas lamps in the several streets, roads and other places within and about the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai as are at present erected fitted up and lighted by the Company and such additional gas lamps and of such descriptions as the Council may from time to time require to be erected and lighted of which reasonable notice in writing shall be given to the Company and all such lamps shall be kept lighted throughout the night between the hours hereinafter specified except on moonlight nights when all lamps shall be extinguished at midnight (with the exception of the 10 feet Wharf lamps) on two nights before full moon, the night of the full moon and the two succeeding nights. The Municipal Engineer of the said Settlements shall be at liberty at any time during this Agreement to direct that the lighting of certain of the lamps to be lighted hereunder and whether now erected or additional (to be erected and as herein provided by order of the Council) shall be discontinued provided that the minimum number of lamps to be lighted under this Agreement at any one time and whether now erected or additional or both be never less than Three hundred and fifty (350).

2.—The Council shall on the last day of each month or as soon after as practicable cause to be paid to the Company in respect of each lamp to be lighted by the Company under this Agreement the monthly sums stated in Schedule A hereunto attached the first payment to be made on or about the thirty-first day of January, 1898.

3.—The said sums as specified in Schedule A shall include the cost of lighting, extinguishing, cleaning, together with the proper maintenance (including annual painting of columns and brackets) of all lanterns, burners, lantern cocks and all piping in connection therewith not exceeding 30 ft. in length from the Company's main, to the satisfaction of the said Municipal Engineer, but the Company shall not be called upon to make good any of the lamp posts, brackets, lanterns or burners which may have been damaged by accidental causes being any causes other than those occasioned by neglect or wilful act of the Company or any of its servants or fair wear and tear.

4.—No persons other than the servants of the said Gas Company instructed by the Engineer of the said Company shall be permitted to affix, remove, alter or repair any lamp post or bracket or any lantern, burners or any pipe or fitting used for the purpose of carrying out this contract except in the case of a leakage of gas or other accident when the servants of the said Council shall have power to adopt such temporary measures as may be necessary until the arrival of the Gas Company's representative.

5.—The Company hereby agrees upon the requisition of the said Municipal Engineer to provide every public gas lamp now erected

or that may hereafter be erected within and about the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai where gas mains are at present laid or shall during the period of this Agreement be laid with the burner or burners known as the "Borradaile" or other approved burner or burners and cause to be well and sufficiently consumed therein gas of the illuminating power hereinafter prescribed and at such a rate per hour as may be decided by the Council, and it is hereby mutually agreed that the illuminating power of the gas furnished by the Company to the aforesaid classes of lamps shall not be less than Sixteen candle power when consumed in the standard burner prescribed by the Metropolitan Gas Referees of London and tested by a standard suitable to the climate such as shall be mutually agreed upon, and it is hereby further agreed that the gas to be furnished by the Company shall be gas completely purified from sulphuretted hydrogen and shall not contain more than ten grains of ammonia in every one hundred cubic feet of gas, the degree of purity of the gas to be ascertained in accordance with the rules prescribed in the Gas Works Clauses Act of 1871.

6.—The Council should they consider it necessary will provide and maintain a testing station in a suitable position and appoint a Gas Examiner who shall be duly qualified to act in that capacity.

If at any time during the hours of lighting covered by this Contract the Gas Examiner shall find the illuminating power lower than the prescribed standard, or shall detect the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen or an excess of ammonia beyond the amount hereinafter agreed upon he shall immediately notify the Company and the Council. Upon receipt of the notification the Company shall be at liberty to send their representative within 24 hours to the testing station of the Council where the Gas Examiner in conjunction with the Company's representative shall make the tests for illuminating power or purity and if at this testing the Gas is found to be deficient in illuminating power or of insufficient purity it shall be deemed conclusive proof that the gas was below the prescribed standard on the first occasion of testing but if the tests of the Gas Examiner are not confirmed by the joint testing with the Company's representative then the penalties hereinafter agreed upon shall not be imposed. Provided always that in case the Gas Examiner and the representative of the Gas Company are unable to agree in their results the Council and the Gas Company shall each appoint a fit and proper person to act as Referee to decide all questions that may arise connected with the purity and illuminating power of the Gas to be provided and in case of a difference of opinion between the Referees they shall appoint an Umpire whose decision shall be final and binding on both parties and in the event of the decision being adverse to the Gas Examiner the Company shall not be deemed to have incurred any forfeiture in respect of such particular occasion. And it is understood that the said referee shall in no way be considered to possess the powers of an arbitrator upon any question which may arise hereafter between the said Council and the Company unless and except such questions originate from a variance of opinion about the purity or the illuminating power of the gas to be provided whereupon the decision of the referee shall be binding upon both parties.

7.—The said Council shall on being informed by the Gas Examiner that the Gas tested and examined as hereinbefore provided is of insufficient purity or of an illuminating power below the illuminating power hereinbefore mentioned give official notice in writing to the Company that the quality of gas furnished by the Company has been tested and declared to be of insufficient purity or of an illuminating power less than the illuminating power hereinbefore agreed to, then the Company shall subject to the proviso hereinafter contained for each and every day on which the gas is of insufficient purity or illuminating power pay the following sums as penalties that is to say for each full half candle deficiency in illuminating power the sum of Five Mexican Dollars per day for each day on which sulphuretted hydrogen is found present in the gas the sum of Five Mexican Dollars per day and for each full grain of ammonia above the quantity agreed upon Five Mexican Dollars per day. Provided

always that such deficiency of illuminating power or insufficiency of purity are caused by neglect or wilful act of the Company and not by the Act of God, accidents at Works, strikes, lockouts, wars or force majeure. All penalties incurred by the Gas Company under this Clause shall be paid by the Company monthly.

8.—The Company shall upon receipt of a requisition from the Municipal Engineer provide and erect as provided for in Clause 1 of this Agreement or remove and re-erect such and so many lamps, lamp posts, brackets, burner, piping and other fittings in connection therewith as may be required anywhere in or about the area of the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai where gas mains are at present laid or shall during the period of this Agreement be laid, at the sole cost and charge of the said Council which shall pay for all such materials and labour at the rates specified in the Schedule of prices observed in the Gas Company's Office.

9.—The Company hereby agrees to cause each and every public lamp at present erected or any such to be hereafter erected to be punctually lighted each evening not later than at the hour specified for each month of the year in the table hereunder written and to be kept so lighted and to be kept constantly supplied with the full quantity of gas until the hour specified each morning for each month of the year in the table hereunder written and so often as the said lamp shall not be kept supplied with the full quantity of gas or shall not be lighted at the time agreed or kept lighted throughout the night until the hour agreed the company shall deduct, subject to the proviso hereinafter contained, from the monthly account the sum of Thirty Mexican Dollar Cents per night for each and every lamp which the Police shall report to the said Municipal Engineer as not having been lighted at the time agreed or not kept supplied with the full quantity of gas or as not having been kept lighted until the time agreed and the hours agreed to and referred to in this clause for the lighting and extinguishing of all the said lamp for each and every consecutive month of the year shall be those contained and specified in the table hereunto attached. Provided always that the said sum of Thirty Mexican Dollar Cents per night for each and every lamp not lighted or not kept supplied with the full quantity of gas or not kept lighted as aforesaid shall not be forfeited by the Company if the extinguishing or nonlighting of the said lamps have been occasioned by accidental causes the true meaning and interpretation of the term accidental causes being any causes other than those occasioned by the neglect or wilful act of the Company or any of its servants or by fair wear and tear.

10.—Subject only to the approval of the said Municipal Engineer the Company shall have the power to break up or remove the pavement, pitching, ballast or other road metalling of any street road or place or sink and dig any hole or trench in, under, along or across any street, road or other public place in or about the said Foreign Settlements at Shanghai for the purpose of laying any gas main or service pipe or of repairing any such already laid. The replacing of the pavement, pitching or ballast shall be executed by and under the supervision of the officers of the Municipal Engineer's Department of the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai at the sole cost and charge of the Company which shall pay for all such work at the rate specified in the schedule of prices observed in the Municipal Engineer's Department aforesaid except such excavations as may be necessary for laying new or relaying or repairing lamp services or services to Municipal property when the cost of all necessary road repairs shall be borne by the Council. And it is further understood that such work to be done by the said Municipal Engineer or his officers shall not include the laying or repairing of gas mains or service pipes but solely refer to the proper surfacing, metalling, pitching or paving of the ground so as to leave it in the same condition as it existed previous to the excavations of any such holes or trenches.

11.—The Company hereby agrees to keep at all times the glass panes of each and every lantern bright and clean and it is further provided that should the glass of any such

lantern not be duly cleaned the said Municipal Engineer shall notify the same in writing to the Company and if the said glass panes are not duly cleaned within twenty-four hours after the issue of such notification in writing the Company shall deduct from the monthly account the sum of Ten Mexican Dollar Cents for each and every lantern not duly cleaned.

12.—It is hereby understood and agreed that for the purposes of this Contract the words and expressions Municipal Engineer hereinbefore referred to shall mean the Municipal Engineer of the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai or the Acting Municipal Engineer for the time being of the said Foreign Settlements or the person for the time being lawfully performing the duties of the Municipal Engineer of the said Settlements and that the word gas shall be understood to mean illuminating gas containing under no circumstances a greater proportion of water gas in the mixture of coal gas than one fourth.

13.—If during the continuance of this Agreement or at any time afterwards any difference shall arise between the Council and the Company in regard to the construction of any of the Articles herein contained or to any act or thing to be done in pursuance hereof or to any other matter or thing relating to this Agreement or the matters therein contained (being other than differences as to the matters the settlement of which is already fully provided for and set out in Article 6 of this Agreement) such difference shall be forthwith referred to the arbitration of George Jamieson Esquire Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai or the Consul-General for the time being whose decision shall be final and binding on both parties.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written

SCHEDULE A.

For each lamp or burner consuming 4 c. ft. per hour \$2.95 per month.

For each lamp or burner consuming 5 c. ft. per hour \$3.55 per month.

For each lamp or burner consuming 10 c. ft. per hour \$7.15 per month.

For cleaning and lighting five (5) lamps in the Public Gardens \$0.25 (twenty-five dollar cents) each per month.

For cleaning, lighting and maintaining the lamp on the Peking Road pontoon \$0.75 (seventy-five dollar cents) per month.

For the purposes of this contract the lamp on the P. & O. pontoon is to be considered as a 10 ft. Wharf lamp not extinguished during full moon, the Mail Companies having the privilege of consuming the full quantity for which the lamp is rated, viz., 16 c. ft. per hour when required.

TABLE REFERRED TO IN CLAUSE I.

All lamps to be lighted by

From Jan. 1 to Jan. 9	5.30 p.m.
" " 10 " 30	6.00 "
" " 31 " Feb. 20	6.15 "
" Feb. 21 " Mar. 6	6.30 "
" Mar. 7 " Apl. 10	7.00 "
" Apl. 11 " May 1	7.15 "
" May 2 " 22	7.30 "
" " 23 " July 17	7.45 "
" July 18 " Aug. 14	7.30 "
" Aug. 15 " Sept. 11	7.00 "
" Sept. 12 " 26	6.30 "
" " 27 " Oct. 9	6.00 "
" Oct. 10 " 30	5.45 "
" " 31 " Nov. 13	5.30 "
" Nov. 14 " Dec. 18	5.00 "
" Dec. 19 " 31	5.15 "

All lamps not to be extinguished before

From Jan. 1 to Jan. 16	6.45 a.m.
" " 16 " 31	6.30 "
" Feb. 1 " Feb. 13	6.15 "
" " 13 " 28	6.00 "
" Mar. 1 " Mar. 13	5.45 "
" " 14 " 27	5.30 "
" " 28 " Apl. 17	5.00 "
" Apl. 18 " May 8	4.30 "
" May 9 " July 24	4.00 "
" July 25 " Aug. 14	4.30 "
" Aug. 15 " 28	5.00 "
" " 29 " Sept. 25	5.30 "
" Sept. 26 " Oct. 16	5.45 "
" Oct. 17 " Nov. 6	6.00 "
" Nov. 7 " Dec. 4	6.15 "
" Dec. 5 " 18	6.30 "
" " 19 " 31	6.45 "

Number of hours of a night lighting 3,996 per annum.
Deduct hours extinguished—
full moon 345 " "

Total lighting hours...3,651 per annum.

Police.—Upon the recommendation of the Captain Superintendent it is resolved that the Central Road district shall in future be considered as a separate division, and the promotion of Sergeant Kelly to be Inspector in charge of that division is approved.

Volunteers.—The following movements are notified to the Council by the Major Commanding: Resignation of Captain G. Miller, "C" Co. (on leave).

Commission as 2nd Lieutenant, German Company, recommended to be issued to Sergeant Witt of that Company. Commission approved.

The Meeting then adjourns.

The following reports are submitted and ordered to be published with the foregoing minutes:—

Police.—Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Municipal Police during the week ending the 19th day of March, 1898:

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	10
Burglary	1
Cruelty to Animals	4
Furious riding or driving	8
Larceny from persons	1
" " dwellings, etc.	55
Miscellaneous cases	415
Ricksha Licenses suspended	567
" " confiscated	1
Wheelbarrow " suspended	78
Handcart " "	4
Beggars, Hawkers and Rogues	441

Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police 1,583
Chinese dead bodies found in streets... 7
Stray dogs captured 82

PIERRE R. PATTISSON,
Captain Superintendent, S.M.P.

Native Dairies.—Weekly Report.

Shanghai, 23rd March, 1898.

Sir,—All the Native Dairies have been inspected during the past week.

The licenses of Kin Kee, North Honan Road, and of Chang Hong Kee, North Honan Road, have been withdrawn owing to their not complying with the Municipal Regulations.

The disease at Overweg's Bungalow not having spread, licenses were reissued to Char Mow Zung and Hoen Yung Sing.

As reported last week, Rinderpest broke out in the Sinza District, and, this week I have to report that a dairy adjoining has since become infected. The owner, however has promised to immediately kill his whole stock, so, therefore, the disease is not likely to spread.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector.

Dr. STANLEY.

Medical Officer of Health, Shanghai.

THE SHANGHAI GAS COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at the offices of the Chairman of the company, Mr. E. Jenner Hogg, 10 Peking Road, on Wednesday afternoon. There were also present Messrs. J. Cooper and E. A. Probst (directors), Mr. H. P. Wilkinson (legal adviser), Mr. G. R. Wingrove (secretary), Mr. H. King Hiller (engineer), and Messrs. J. Ambrose, J. Buchanan, C. C. Bennett, H. F. L. Bell, A. W. Burkill, E. Davis, J. C. Hanson, H. R. Kinnear, F. E. Taylor, C. Thorne, A. B. Trodd, C. H. Wells, E. P. Wickham, and J. M. Young, representing 1,582 shares, or equal to 557 votes.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the report and accounts (a copy of which has already appeared in these columns) were submitted.

The Chairman in moving their adoption said:—Gentlemen—There is a small printer's error in the report. The net profit is stated as Tls. 52,131.33. It should be Tls. 52,131.29. It does not affect the accounts. Making this correction we will, with your permission, take the report and accounts as read. I am glad to be able to point to the satisfactory results, on the whole, for the past year, although the advance in the price of coal has made the cost of working high, in proportion to the increase in consumption, and low rates of exchange have affected the cost of repairs and maintenance. At the same time I must remind you that this result was obtained through our having coal contracts running at lower prices than we have since had to pay. Consumption has increased 12,969,921 cubic feet or 12.48 per cent over the previous year, which, though a smaller increase than in 1896 compares very favourably with preceding years; especially as we have lost the street lighting in the French Concession since July 1897, causing a decrease from that source of 1,844,031 cubic feet. On the other hand there is a small increase of 153,071 cubic feet in the English Settlement public lighting. It is interesting to note that during the 24 hours at the last Chinese New Year there was again a "record" delivery, 592,000 cubic feet or 66.5 per cent over the similar day in 1897. The manufacture and distribution have gone on smoothly and the new Hongkew Gas Holder was completed by the end of the year but the connecting mains were not sufficiently advanced to permit of its being brought into ordinary use till the 21st January 1898. It is a telescopic Holder to contain 500,000 cubic feet of gas and in connection with it are buildings comprising boiler and engine rooms, governor house, store, and dwelling house for a foreign foreman. All the work has been satisfactorily done and this addition to the Company's resources cannot fail to improve the lighting of the Hongkew district so soon as private services and fittings have been set in order. A circular with this object has been addressed to consumers in that locality. Turning to the accounts. The receipts for gas and residuals sold show an increase of Tls. 20,227.36 or 12½ per cent, whilst expenditure has increased Tls. 23,407.60 or 22 per cent. Foreign consumption, including public lamps, shows an increase of Tls. 4,653.38 or 5.71 per cent (and you will bear in mind that we have had no public lamps in the French Concession since the end of July). Native consumption has increased Tls. 15,211.88 or 27 per cent. Residuals show a small increase of Tls. 357.10 or 1½ per cent. The smallness of the increase is due to the fact that we use more coke in the works and, besides, we have actually carbonised only about the same amount of coal as in 1896, the improvement in the works having contributed to this result. In regard

to fittings, etc., you will notice that we have opened an account showing the profit, which is only a moderate one on the large amount of capital invested in this branch of the Company's business. It is Tls. 6,860.66, which I have, for purposes of comparison, not included in the total receipts just given to you. On the other side of the accounts, coal, shale and petroleum have cost Tls. 14,887.71 or 24½ per cent more than last year. Purifying materials and labour have cost Tls. 310.77 less which speaks well for the working of the new plant. Salaries and wages show an increase of Tls. 1,793.54 chiefly due to native wages, to collectors, inspecting, etc. Repairs and maintenance, appertaining to manufacture show an increase of Tls. 4,402. The expenditure under this heading includes Tls. 10,728, spent on renewal of retorts and settings. Repairs and maintenance appertaining to distribution show an increase of Tls. 948, a large number of new services having been laid down free of charge. Printing and stationery are Tls. 328 more, mostly in connection with the new issue of Debentures. Miscellaneous expenses are Tls. 1,051.78, entirely due to a bonus to certain members of the staff. Coming to Profit and Loss account you will find a net profit for the year of Tls. 51,131.29. It includes a debit for interest of Tls. 6,263.56 and a credit for exchange of Tls. 2,508.24, a small profit of Tls. 285.71 on realisation of Land for debentures, and Tls. 223.70 remaining to credit of "New Oriental Bank Deposit" after receipt of the final Dividend. A small sum only has been written off for Depreciation, and that chiefly from the cost of fittings out on loan; the fact being that a revision of valuation must be made in connection with a scheme to which I shall further allude immediately. Total expenditure on capital account is Tls. 182,169.18, but land and buildings stand in the books reduced by Tls. 2,467.07, for although the additions cost Tls. 50,032.23, we have sold the property on the north side of the Sochow Creek for Tls. 52,500. This property was no longer needed for the business of the Company since we had (as stated to you a year ago) acquired land on this side adjoining the works and the site in Hongkew. It is, of course, clear that the Company's property under this heading is worth much more than book values. The "additions" comprise Hongkew site and buildings about Tls. 42,000, and at the works exhaustor house, purifying houses, engine house and coal sheds—and some other smaller items about Tls. 6,000. Amongst other expenditure on capital account is Tls. 67,628.79 under the heading "Machinery for manufacture"—of this Tls. 60,541 was for the cost of the new holder—exchange being chiefly responsible for the increase over estimates. A new station meter has cost Tls. 1,900—and expenses connected with the erection of plant account for the rest. Under "Mains, etc., for distribution" we have spent Tls. 64,507.55. This includes Tls. 50,743.40 for new mains, Tls. 4,800 for new meters, Tls. 3,300 for services, Tls. 2,900 for road repairs, Tls. 1,500 for labour in connection with these things, and some small items make up the amount. Acting on the resolution of March 25th 1897, and confirmed on April 15th, debentures to the amount of Tls. 100,000 have been issued at 5 per cent. At the close of the year we were carrying a large stock of coal—Tls. 20,700 worth—which it was considered a wise precaution to hold, owing to the political situation—and, it has been necessary to keep in hand a big supply of fittings to meet our increasing business, while also there was a large amount due for gas, etc., sold. Owing to these circumstances we had to arrange an overdraft with the Bank, which you will see stood at Tls. 34,579.82 on the 31st of December. I think the only further point to record is

that the high cost of coal compelled us, very reluctantly, to raise the price of gas to consumers from \$1.85 to \$2 per 1,000 feet; an increase, which I can assure you was the least that we could make compatibly with the much enhanced cost of coal. We trust that, without any further increase in our charges for gas, we may rely on larger consumption to make good the heavily increased outlay for coal which we are called on to make, as we never fail to realise that low cost of gas means bigger consumption and we shall welcome the time when we can again reduce prices to, and even below, the former level. I may, perhaps, be expected to allude to one other subject. Whatever may be said anywhere or by any one, the company endeavours to deal with customers with scrupulous fairness. There is never a complaint as to consumption that is not carefully and fully enquired into, and if anything is found wrong, there is no hesitation on the part of the Company in acknowledging it, and in making amends. Unfortunately for the company there does not exist here any Government Inspector such as there is in England to whom reference can be made for the settlement of disputes, but our experts conduct their enquiries in precisely the same way as the Government Inspector does, and I must take leave to say that our experts are gentlemen who will not perjure themselves or report falsely as to the test of a meter. Your Directors would not, I presume, be elected if you considered them to be men who were likely to be suspected of an inclination to encourage or tolerate unjust dealings. There is nothing left for us, gentlemen, in cases of dispute after having satisfied ourselves by very careful enquiry, but to enforce claims that we find to be just. It is impossible to accept "guesses" against the evidence of proofs in the only form yet invented. Memories cannot always be trusted while scientific tests must have a real value. As to the conditions on the company's bills, I wish to say that some years ago it was found necessary to protect the company by such a clause about meters as is there inserted. The power is rarely exercised by the company, and only after careful tests of the meters, and full examination into all the circumstances. It is often said that gas "cannot have been consumed" because the occupants of a house are away—"up country" and so on. We know of cases where servants have made free with gas during their masters' absences and we may fairly ask consumers to help themselves and the Company in a way which would give them but little trouble and would preclude the possibility of such complaints. It is merely that they would request the Company to shut off their gas on such date as they leave giving the date on which they wish it to be turned on again. Looking to the future, your Directors are considering a scheme for reorganising the Company, which they intend to submit to you as soon as possible. It is obvious that a Company that has grown as this has from a "make" in 1890 of 57 million cubic feet to 127 millions in 1897 must need increased means in the ordinary way of business and your Directors have endeavoured to meet these necessities by the issue of Tls. 100,000 capital in 1896 and by the issue of Tls. 100,000 debentures in 1897. But these resources have not sufficed to keep pace with ever growing requirements, especially now that it has become absolutely necessary to hold heavy stocks of coal, fittings, and material. In short our Capital is not big enough for our business. We are not, to-day prepared to go into any details of a scheme, but broadly speaking I may say that we shall propose a reorganisation on a basis of the real value of the Company's property and works which stand in the books at much under what they are worth. We believe too that we shall meet the shareholders' views and we shall take the

opportunity of including in the scheme the incorporation of the Company under the Hongkong Ordinances so to make it a Limited Liability Company.

Mr. Probst seconded and the report and accounts were then unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I beg to move the usual resolution:—

"That the directors be hereby authorised to pay the shareholders on the register on the 31st of December 1898 the interest that shall have accrued on the reserve fund to this date.

Mr. Cooper seconded and this was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. C. Thorne—I beg to move:—

That Messrs. E. Jenner Hogg, A. E. Probst, J. Cooper, J. L. Scott, and J. M. Young be elected as directors until the next annual meeting.

I am sure I need make no comment on that.

Mr. J. Buchanan seconded and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Ambrose—I beg to move:—

That Mr. C. W. Wrightson be elected auditor until the next annual meeting and that his remuneration be Tls. 300.

Mr. Bennett seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Chairman—That concludes all the business we have, but I wish to say that, with the view of giving all the information we can on a rather vexed subject, we have placed in this room to-day two meters, and Mr. Hiller, our very excellent engineer, will have much pleasure in explaining the working of the meters and in answering any questions that may be asked about them. I think if some of our friends would take a little trouble to learn how to read their meters and look after them generally we should have, probably, fewer complaints. (Hear, hear.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors proposed by Captain Wells, seconded by Mr. Thorne, and carried with acclamation concluded the proceedings.

THE SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF COMPANY.

Mr. E. F. Alford presided at the annual meeting of the proprietors of this Company held at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., on Tuesday afternoon. Amongst those present were Messrs. A. McLeod, E. A. Probst, A. Korff, and E. A. Hewett (Directors), Messrs. Rodewald, C. Thorne, Captain Dobie, D. Glass, J. M. Young, G. L. Oberg, J. Buchanan, C. Dowdall, C. E. Anton, R. H. R. Burder, E. H. Kenney, Ti San, L. A. Tavares, Laing Poo-chau, H. R. Kinnear, W. Lamond, T. Pemberton, T. R. Wheelock, R. Eastlack, and W. A. Cruickshank (Secretary). The notice convening the meeting having been read, the report and accounts were presented a copy of which appeared in these columns on the 12th inst.

The Chairman in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said—Gentlemen: With your permission I will take the report as read. Its satisfactory nature will be apparent to you, but it may be interesting if I mention the comparison between one or two items in the accounts as compared with last year. You will observe that the total profits for the year came to Tls. 199,000 as against Tls. 184,000 in the previous year. Well the main reason for this satisfactory increase is not in the earning power but in the saving power. (Hear, hear.) I am glad to say savings have been effected which have accounted not only for that difference but also have provided for the increase which has been necessary from the increased cost of labour. In appropriating the balance of profit you will observe that we have written off the balance

of building account for 1896 by adding it to the property account and also the expenditure on works in 1897. This is perfectly justifiable seeing how much the property is still undervalued in our books. After paying an interim dividend of three taels we propose to pay a further final dividend of five taels, thus making eight taels for the year, and in carrying forward the two items, one of Tls. 20,000 to the credit of repairs account and Tls. 16,000 to the credit of profit and loss account for next year I think we are taking perhaps a conservative measure. The repairs account is merely a matter of precaution and it will appear to the credit of profit and loss account so that shareholders will see for themselves how it is absorbed and if it is absorbed in the next year's accounts. The financial position I may tell you as shown in the report is that the Company on the 31st December owed Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. Tls. 47,000, against which there were accounts in course of collection amounting to Tls. 67,000. The account at the present moment stands as follows: The balance due to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, after allowing for the collection of bills up to date, is Tls. 39,000 and of course we are as usual providing for the dividend—if you pass it—which will require Tls. 75,000 more. I don't think the fact that the account is overdrawn need cause you any anxiety. In fact it does not cause us any anxiety and I think it will be satisfactory to you. Taking the year's earnings it may interest you to know how we have been doing. In January our receipts were Tls. 12,000 as against Tls. 14,000 last year. But this is easily accounted for by the fact of the decrease in the cost of storage. In February our receipts, that is our profits, were Tls. 14,438 against Tls. 14,270 last year, so that you see we have got into as good a position and rather more so. It has been arranged in view of the tariff not being excessive—in fact rather the reverse—with the other wharfingers to increase the tariff on the 1st of April. That increased tariff will, I hope, increase our earning power. In fact it is sure to. I think it is due to the shareholders that they should get the same good return on their shares that they have been having in the past because it must be borne in mind that certainly during the last year—and I see no reason why it should be different in the future—there has been an increase in the cost of labour, coupled with the enhanced cost of cash with which all labour is paid. However with the increased tariff we can look forward with perfect satisfaction to the future of the Company. I don't know that there is anything I can add, but if any shareholder has anything to say or any question to ask, I am prepared to answer them before I propose the adoption of the accounts.

No questions being asked, Mr. Alford moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Macleod seconded and the proposition was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. C. Thorne proposed:—

That Messrs. Macleod, J. L. Scott, Probst, Korff, and Hewett be re-elected Directors for the ensuing year.

They had learnt, he said, the careful manner in which they had managed the affairs of the Company last year by the report and accounts which had just been disposed of. He therefore thought they could not do better than re-elect them. (Hear, hear). This resolution would, of course, also include the acting partners of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Mr. W. Lamond seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. T. R. Wheelock proposed:—

That Messrs. Wrightson and Wingrove be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. Buchanan seconded and this was also unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then proposed:—

That a final dividend of five taels per share be declared,

Remarking that, in the event of the motion being carried, dividend warrants would be issued the same evening.

Mr. Probst seconded and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Kinnear moved that the remuneration of the Directors for the year be Tls. 3,000.

Capt. Dobie seconded and this was also agreed to.

The Chairman said that the amount had been raised from Tls. 2,500 in consequence of an addition to the Board which was considered very desirable. They had no more business to bring before the meeting and he could only express the hope that they might have as favourable, if not a more favourable, report to present, to them next year. They were, he added, indebted to Mr. Glass for considerable energy on the premises (hear, hear).

The meeting then terminated.

THE SHANGHAI TUG-BOAT CO., LD.

The twelfth annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the Agents, Messrs. Morris & Co., on Wednesday afternoon. Present: Messrs. J. Prentice, (Chairman), C. Buchanan, W. Dobie (Directors), Ollerdissen, G. Galles, F. Gove, T. R. Wheelock, R. W. Mustard, J. Morris, and J. C. Bois.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, as there is now a quorum present I shall ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting. The notice was then read.

The Chairman—Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I should like to make a few remarks upon them. In comparing the accounts with those of the previous year you will notice that there has been a decrease of Tls. 14,990.90, but last year you will remember, was an exceptional one for salvage, a good deal of money having been made in connection with the *Onwo*. If compared with the previous year, 1895, you will notice that this year there is an increase in the earnings of Tls. 6,000, and these two years were all receipts from tug-boat work. The working expenses are about Tls. 2,000 more than last year, due to the enhanced price of coal, which forms a very considerable item in our expenditure. The profit and loss account shows a balance to the credit of working account of Tls. 31,181.38, out of which we have paid Tls. 15,000 in three interim dividends. From the balance of Tls. 16,668.10 we propose paying a final dividend of Tls. 5, making 20 per cent for the year, which, I think, is highly satisfactory, placing Tls. 9,000 to the reserve and Tls. 2,668.10 to new account. The books show the value of the fleet at Tls. 128,000 against Tls. 74,000 last year. This increase has been made up by the cost of new engines and boilers to the *Fuhle* and the cost of the new tender *Victoria*, which has been added to the fleet. The banking account is Tls. 48,000 on deposit, and Tls. 10,504.32 on current account. On the other side there is a balance of Tls. 15,500, the balance of the contract for building the *Victoria* due to Messrs. Boyd & Co, which amount has been paid. The new engines and boilers to the *Fuhle* make her as good as new, and she is better than she ever was before. The other three tow-boats are in excellent order, and we do not expect to spend any money on them in the future. The tender *Victoria* has been added to the fleet and is doing very good

work. With the four boats we can more than overtake all the work of the port. We have insured the four boats for Tls. 3,290, with the collision clause, and must take the balance ourselves. This, gentlemen, is the very best we can do. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer any questions that you may like to put.

There being no question, the Chairman proposed and it was seconded by Capt. Dobie:—

That the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed, and that a final dividend of Tls. 5 per share be paid on the 28th inst.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. T. R. Wheelock and seconded by Mr. J. C. Bois:—

That Mr. J. Prentice be re-elected a Director, to serve on the Board according to the Articles of Association.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. F. Gove, seconded by Mr. G. Galles:—

That Mr. H. J. Limby be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. G. Galles, seconded by Mr. Gove:—

That a bonus of one month's salary be paid to the staff.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman—I may say that the staff have done very good work during the past year, and that we have run remarkably free from accidents.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Galles, and seconded by Mr. Mustard, having been passed, the proceedings terminated.

REPORT.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the audited accounts for the year 1897.

The amount at the credit of the Profit and Loss Account is Tls. 31,668.10; three interim Dividends of Tls. 5.00 per share have been paid, amounting to Tls. 15,000.00, leaving a balance of Tls. 16,668.10.

Your Directors propose to appropriate this balance as follows—add Tls. 9,000.00 to Reserve, pay a final Dividend of Tls. 5 per share (making in all 20 per cent for the year) and carry the balance of Tls. 2,668.10 to new account.

The superintendent's reports on the *Samson*, *Rocket* and *Fokelin* are satisfactory.

During the year the *Fuhle* has been fitted by Messrs. S. C. Farnham and Co., Ltd., with new engines and boiler, and the hull thoroughly repaired, and she is now a first-class serviceable tow-boat.

A new mail tender (*Victoria*) has been built by Messrs. Boyd and Co., Ltd.

Directors.—Mr. J. Prentice, in accordance with the Articles of Association, retires, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. H. J. Limby also offers himself for re-election.

JOHN PRENTICE,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

From 1st January, 1897, to 31st December, 1897.

	Dr.	Tls.
To Tug-boats' portage bills	15,871.17	
„ Superintending Engineer and shore staff wages	2,784.79	
„ Wages of carpenter, watchman, and sampanman	358.52	
„ 2,460 tons coal	12,056.20	
„ Repairs account	2,002.89	
„ Deck and engine-room stores	1,911.61	
„ Medical attendance	200.00	
„ Directors' fees	640.00	
„ Auditor's fees	100.00	
„ Godown rent and Fire Insurance 1 year	286.75	
„ Telephone	50.00	
„ Pilotage—up-river	200.00	
„ Sundry charges	1,183.29	
„ Insurance on hulls, etc. of tug-boats, etc.	3,290.00	
„ Agents' remuneration, office rent and staff	3,630.95	
„ Balance to profit and loss	31,181.38	

Tls. 75,747.55

Cr.	Tls.
By Earnings of tug-boats. etc.	72,619.36
„ Interest account	3,128.19

Tls. 75,747.55

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To 1st Interim Dividend paid 15th June, 1897	5,000.00
„ 2nd Interim Dividend paid 20th September, 1897	5,000.00
„ 3rd Interim Dividend paid 15th December, 1897	5,000.00
„ Balance	16,668.10

Tls. 31,668.10

Cr.	Tls.
By Balance	7,686.31
Less—Final Dividend for 1896	5,000.00
Bonus to working staff	1,879.59
Balance Directors' fees 1896	520.00
„ Balance Working Account	486.72
„ Balance Working Account	31,181.38

Tls. 31,668.10

BALANCE SHEET.

Dr.	Tls.
Assets.	
To Wrecking Apparatus	4,000.00
„ Tugs <i>Samson</i> , <i>Fuhle</i> , <i>Rocket</i> and <i>Fokelin</i> and tender <i>Victoria</i>	128,000.00
„ 717 tons coal	5,039.69
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—Deposit Account	48,000.00
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—Current Account	10,504.32
„ Morris & Co.	1,624.09

Tls. 197,168.10

Liabilities.

Cr.	Tls.
By Shares Account	100,000.00
„ Boyd & Co., Ltd.	14,500.09
„ Reserve Fund	66,000.00
„ Profit and Loss Account	16,668.10

Tls. 197,168.10

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 1st March, 1898.

JOHN PRENTICE,
WM. DOBIE,
C. BUCHANAN, } Directors.

MORRIS & Co., Agents.

I hereby certify that I have examined all the accounts of the Company, comparing them with the vouchers and Bank pass book, and have found the same to be all in order.

H. J. LIMBY, Auditor.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—The most effectual Cure for Gout and Rheumatism. — A frequent cause of these complaints is the inflammatory state of the blood, attended, with bad digestion, lassitude, and great debility, showing the want of a proper circulation of the fluid, and that impurity of the blood greatly aggravates these disorders. Holloway's Pills are of so purifying a nature that a few doses taken in time are an effectual preventive against gout and rheumatism, but anyone that has an attack of either should use Holloway's Ointment also, the powerful properties of which, combined with the effects of the Pills, ensure a certain cure. The Ointment should be thoroughly rubbed into the parts affected at least twice a day, after they have been sufficiently fomented with warm water to open the pores to facilitate the introduction of the Ointment to the glands.

(1)

MAJOR BROTHERS, LIMITED.

The eighth annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the offices of the Company, 18, Hankow Road, on Friday. Mr. J. D. Thorburn presided and there were also present Messrs. H. J. Such and A. McLeod (Directors), E. S. Perrott, P. H. Purcell, W. H. Poate, F. W. Such, and E. O. Arbuthnot (Secretary).

The Chairman in opening the proceedings said—

There being now a quorum present, I shall proceed with the business of the meeting. The report and accounts have been in your hands some days and I would ask you to take them as read. Before asking you to pass the report and accounts however, I wish to give you a *résumé* of the year's working, more especially as some of you were not present at the explanatory meeting held on the 22nd inst. At last year's meeting I mentioned, as showing the progress of your business, that the year 1894 showed a loss of Tls. 21,548.71 and 1895 again showed a deficit of Tls. 4,367.91 while 1896 pointed to a profit of Tls. 7,212.96 on 14 months' working. This year the 12 months under review show a gain of Tls. 9,635.31 after providing for the debit balance brought forward on profit and loss accounts of Tls. 2,474.02 or an actual gain of Tls. 12,119.38; and this profit would have been greater, but for the postal rates in operation during the early months of the year. I shall refer to this more particularly when speaking in connection with the *Shénpao*. The balance at the credit of profit and loss account namely Tls. 9,635.31 has been transferred to depreciation and adjustment. In response to the desire expressed at last year's meeting, when it was stated that the value of your land appeared in the accounts at a sum very far below its value, whereas nothing has been written off from the value of plant and building in the way of depreciation for many years—the accounts have now been made up as showing your land at an enhanced value and your plant, etc., at a sweeping reduction. The balance at credit of profit and loss account has been deducted from the amount so charged to the value of land. Of course these alterations in your accounts do not by any means make the land appear at anything like its to-day's value, but they do make the Plant, etc., stand in the books at a low figure. You can in this way see more clearly what your assets consist of, and I think you will agree with your Directors that the Valuations set down in the published balance sheet are low. A comparison of the Working Expenses as set forth in the Statement of Profit and Loss Account—with last year's statement, shows a considerable saving, especially in the matter of interest and salaries, and this year there will be still less interest to pay. At the present moment I am glad to be able to inform you that you have practically no liabilities of any moment except the mortgage to the Yangtze Insurance Association, whilst you have a credit balance on your current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank of some Tls. 2,000. Soap-making has been given up in the meantime at all events, and the Cotton Seed Oil Mill has not been worked for the reasons given at the explanatory meeting. The *Shénpao* I am happy to say has done better than your Directors had at one time expected. The restrictions imposed, and the rates of postage charged during the first month of the year, caused heavy outlays, and as a result many of your customers, at other places than Shanghai, discontinued their orders, and consequently the circulation of your paper received a severe shock. On representation of these hardships to the postal authorities relief was obtained, and the newspapers now go forward on the

freight basis as in home countries. The circulation has been fully recovered and indeed increased and you have every reason to congratulate yourselves on the possession of a valuable property which should become more and more valuable as time goes on. Allusion was made last year to the somewhat Chinese look of the newspaper on occasions. As mentioned at that time, the attention of the management had been directed to the question of getting a new kind of paper. And this has been accomplished. The new kind of paper has proved so satisfactory that we have entered into a contract for a regular supply and the first delivery under our arrangement should take place in a week or so now. The Acid Works have done a considerably larger business. The Company's refiners did not take quite so much acid as during 1896, which year as you will recollect showed a marked increase on 1894 and 1895, but this has been fully compensated for by the increase in local business. Sulphur, Coals, Wages, etc., have all become heavier burdens, but thanks to the care, forethought, and invention of Mr. Mann this burden has been lightened by an improvement in the method of manufacture. Considerable orders for acid are in hand and the outlook for this year's business is therefore assuring. I do not know that there is anything more in connection with your business which I can touch upon to-day. Except to report again that it would appear that our feet are at last clear, and I see no reason at the moment why the balance at credit in the Bank should not be increased sufficiently during the year to admit of your Directors proposing to pay a dividend when we meet again in March, 1899. I shall be happy to give any further explanations or to answer any questions you may think it in the interest of the business to call for or to put to me.

The Chairman then proposed that the accounts be adopted.

Mr. H. J. Such seconded and the resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. W. H. Poate proposed:—

That the retiring Director Mr. J. D. Thorburn be re-elected.

Mr. Purcell seconded and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. F. W. Such moved the appointment of Mr. Wilmer Harris as auditor at a remuneration of Tls. 100 per annum.

Mr. Perrott seconded and this was also agreed to.

The meeting then terminated.

SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting of the members of the Shanghai Cricket Club was held at the Shanghai Club on Friday evening, there being a fair attendance.

Mr. J. L. Scott presided and in opening the proceedings congratulated the members on the success that had attended their efforts during the past season. They had now 167 playing members and 152 honorary members as against 161 playing and 132 honorary members in the previous year, and they had finished up the season with a credit balance of Tls. 534.26. He thought, when they came to recollect the items of extraordinary expenditure which had been met and also the continued advance in the price of labour and supplies, that this result was by no means unsatisfactory (hear, hear). They were unable to win in the interport matches at Hongkong but they made a good fight for it, and hoped in the near future to retrieve their laurels. Of course every team playing away from home laboured under the disadvantage of not being able to put its full strength in the field and this was the case with them. He was sure the thanks

of the members were due to their representatives for the plucky way in which they played up and he thought they might congratulate their honorary secretary, Mr. Tyack, for the share he had in the matter (hear, hear). The report also gave the usual table of batting and bowling analyses but he could not allow them to pass without congratulating Mr. W. H. Moule on his magnificent batting average of 103.86. This was a truly record performance. He was going to say long may he continue to do likewise, but he would not because he considered this sort of thing should not be; what he meant was that he should like to see such an improvement in their bowling as would make a batting average of three figures an impossibility. There was no doubt that their bowling was their weak point and it was a weakness which prejudicially affected their batting. So much so that he considered if their bowling was better their batting would show a marked improvement and cricket generally improve. He was very sorry to say that their old president, Mr. Hearn, had not seen his way to putting his name down as one of the incoming Committee and thus could not take up the position which he had filled with so much satisfaction for many years. He thought the Club was very much indebted to Mr. Hearn for all he had done on its behalf during the thirty odd years in which he had been an active member. As a young man, when he filled the positions of honorary secretary and treasurer, he was one of the most stubborn and determined of bats; while afterwards, when, as was the case with many of them, he found he was unable to serve as an active member, he continued to give his services to the Club as its president. He was sure they would be with him in returning their hearty thanks to him for his long and valuable services (applause). He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. I. Turner said that before the accounts were passed he should like some particulars regarding the Hongkong expenses, although he offered no opposition whatever to the adoption of the report and accounts. The cost of this engagement amounted to 12½ per cent of the income of the club for the year and he considered this was a most extraordinary amount for the Committee to disburse solely on their own authority without any permission from the club. He thought it was especially extraordinary considering that the club in general got absolutely no return for the outlay. Of the twelve players sent down only six were members of the club. In his opinion the members of the team should have paid their own expenses.

The Chairman said that personally he was ignorant of most of the details of which Mr. Turner spoke, the previous committee having had the matter in charge. He thought it was the duty of the committee to use their own judgment as to what they thought was the best thing to do for the club, and as the majority of the members knew what was to be done he did not think there was any necessity to call a special meeting (hear, hear).

Mr. R. C. Farbridge pointed out that every decent cricket club paid the outport expenses. He had never heard of such a thing being questioned before.

The Chairman then added that it was exceedingly difficult to get a team and they had to do the best they could because so many of their members were unable to get away.

Mr. St. Croix seconded and the report was agreed to.

The Chairman announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. J. A. Sullivan who was leaving for home next month. In it Mr. Sullivan requested that his name might be placed on the list of honorary members and expressed a desire to present a bat for every individual hundred and a ball for

every three wickets taken consecutively during the year. He also gave the sum of \$50 for a cup to be purchased and presented to the winners of a lawn tennis handicap, the terms of play in connection therewith to be drawn up by the committee. He did this as a slight acknowledgment of the many happy days he had spent on the ground as a member of that club.

The communication was greeted with applause and the meeting heartily endorsed the action of the committee in returning a letter of thanks.

The Committee were then appointed, the balloting committee being re-elected with the substitution of the names of Mr. A. P. Wood, Mr. S. L. Durby and Mr. A. J. McClure in the place of Mr. St. Croix, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Sutherland, who are leaving or have left for home.

Mr. Nelson suggested the advisability of arranging more second team matches and this the committee undertook to keep in mind.

A resolution proposing to alter the rule which provides that the age of members shall not be under twenty, so as to admit promising young players of eighteen, was negatived. A second motion empowering the committee to employ help in order to expedite the secretarial work was carried.

And the meeting adjourned.

Amusements.

THE PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

A slight alteration was made in the programme of the thirteenth subscription concert, given by the Shanghai Philharmonic Society at the Lyceum on Thursday, and we therefore reprint it here as it was actually rendered:—

PART I.

- 1.—Overture—Zauberflöte Mozart.
Shanghai Philharmonic Society.
- 2.—Song—"Days in the Mine" Jude.
Mrs. Florence Ouseley Stanley.
- 3.—Trio—Op. XLIX. Mendelssohn.
Allegro, Andante, Finale.
(Cello) Mrs. Lamond.
(Violin) Miss Macleod.
(Piano) Mrs. Korff.
- 4.—Song—"Beloved, it is Morn"....Aylward.
Mr. C. Wedemeyer.
- 5.—(a) Prière du Soir..... G. Gialdini.
(b) Danse Israélite..... Clément Broutin.
Shanghai Philharmonic Society.

PART II.

- 6.—"Le Roman de Pierrot et de Pierrette" Burgmein.
(a) Sorenade.
(b) Duo Amoureux.
(c) Bal de Noces.
(d) Cortège Nuptiale.
- 7.—Song—"Should He Upbraid" Bishop.
Mrs. Alford.
- 8.—Clarinet Solo—Elegie Op. IX.
E. Cavallini.
Mr. E. Bernard.
With Orchestral Accompaniment.
- 9.—Song—"An der Weser"..... Pressel.
Mr. L. Phillip.
- 10.—Gavotte—Saison Nouvelle Labat.
Shanghai Philharmonic Society.

There was a large gathering of music lovers to hear the concert and the only fault to be found was there were too many good things provided, the programme not being concluded until half-past eleven, which is half-an-hour too long; and we may justly admire the capabilities of the Society when we know that the success achieved on Thursday was the result of only four rehearsals, and yet the programme included three selections for the orchestra that have not been previously given at these concerts.

The opening number was Mozart's Overture to his *Zauberflöte*, a piece of music that can never become old-fashioned, and never cease to charm. It was most satisfactorily rendered. Mrs. Ouseley Stanley then gave a song by Jude, "Deep in the Mine." It was not a very fortunate

selection, being a depressing and uninteresting song, written for a bass voice. Mrs. Stanley was quite unable to do justice with it to her really remarkable organ. Mendelssohn's beautiful trio, Op. XLIX, for cello (Mrs. Lamond), violin (Miss Macleod), and piano (Mrs. Korff) was the third number. It has been given here twice before, once by Messrs. Macdonald, Friedenthal, and Vela, and once by Mr. Merck, Miss Jansen, and Mrs. Korff. Considering the difficulty that a lady has in putting the necessary power into the playing of the cello, and the further difficulty of giving such a piece without at least one professional, the trio was fairly well given and it was very warmly applauded. The cello was, indeed, a little overpowered by the other two instruments; it is unnecessary to dilate to Shanghai readers on the admirable execution of Miss Macleod and Mrs. Korff. Mr. Wedemeyer followed with a song by Frances Aylward, with piano and harmonium accompaniment, "Beloved, it is Morn." He was in excellent voice, and sang with great taste, but we do not consider that the song was one best suited to his style. He sang so well that he was enthusiastically encored, and we liked better his second selection, "A June Song," by Mary Carmichael. The first part closed with two orchestral pieces, both new, a very taking *Prière du Soir*, by Gialdini, and a remarkably characteristic *Danse Israélite* by a French composer, Clément Broutin.

The second part opened with all four movements of Burgmein's, otherwise Ricciardi's, brilliant *Roman de Pierrot et de Pierrette*, that was given and so heartily enjoyed at the last concert. It was a great improvement giving it all at once on Thursday last, so that the thread, and there is a distinct dramatic story running through it, was not broken. If a slight analysis of it had been given in the programme, it would have been still more enjoyable than it was. The seventh number was Bishop's "Should He Upbraid," the words being adapted from Shakespeare. Bishop's music is supposed to be out-of-date, but such a song as this will continue to live, and to outlive hundreds of modern songs of which thousands of copies are sold in the first year or two, and which then die without hope of resurrection. Mrs. Alford was in excellent voice, and her singing, slightly cold though it is, was listened to with the deepest enjoyment. It was inevitable that she should be encored, and she responded with Denza's pretty ballad, "A My Morning." Mr. E. Bernard followed with a clarinet solo by E. Cavallini, *Elegie*, Op. IX, just one *andante*, with orchestral accompaniment. It was very pleasantly given. Mr. L. Phillip, who has a very fine voice, more bass than baritone, sang Pressel's "An der Weser," so tastefully and well, that it was only the lateness of the hour that prevented his being encored. The concert closed with a very pretty Gavotte by Labat, new to Shanghai, "Saison Nouvelle," in which the orchestra achieved another success.

Commander Vela conducted and played the accompaniments to the vocal music with his usual and well-recognised ability. Leaving Shanghai as he does to-day for a time, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has brought the Philharmonic Society up to a very high standard of excellence, and we have no doubt that when he returns in the autumn he will lead it to still more daring heights.

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THE EIGHTH PERFORMANCE OF CINDERELLA.

There were an unusually large number of people present to witness the eighth performance of *Cinderella* at the Lyceum Theatre on Friday night. The Consular Body and a large number of our most prominent residents attended as the guests of His Excellency Tsai Taotai, who arrived shortly after the curtain had risen, accompanied by his Secretary and the Mixed Court magistrate and suite. Everything passed off as smoothly as could be desired by the most exacting critic. At the end of the first chorus the ladies received a shower of bouquets. Mlle. Ondine was the recipient of much well-deserved applause as she performed the graceful movements of the Serpentine Dance. The Baron and Baroness were up to their usual standard of excellence and their song "It's nothing to do with you" was much appreciated by the audience. The funny business of the two sisters and their songs and dances were productive of much mirth. Cinderella, who was as charming and lovely as ever, performed her part with a confidence and dexterity that would have been good in a professional. During the first interval the Taotai, with his Secretary and the Mixed Court magistrate, went behind the scenes and distributed presents and a bouquet to each lady taking part; and he was heartily cheered when he returned to the house.

Before the harlequinade Mr. Wingrove informed the audience that, as there had been such a great demand for tickets on this occasion, by special request the ladies and gentlemen taking part had kindly consented to appear again on Tuesday night at another performance. Thanking those present for their attendance he said he hoped to see as large an audience on that occasion. The harlequinade, with the indefatigable exertions of Messrs. Frank and Hercules and the graceful dancing of Harlequin and the ever-popular Columbine, went on wheels. The clown's rendering of "A little bit of string" and his frantic attempts at the serpentine dance brought down the house. At the conclusion of the performance there were clamorous calls for Messrs. Wingrove and Vela, who appeared before the curtain in response.

SHANGHAI GOLF CLUB.

The Shanghai Golf Club Monthly Sweep of the 19th, 20th and 21st inst. resulted in a tie between Messrs. E. O. Arbuthnot and J. Cooper, the former gentleman securing first place on playing off the tie.

The Tie for the March Monthly Cup was played off on the 16th inst., and resulted in a win for Mr. Johnston by one point.

J. C. Johnston.....	97		
Dr. J. Ward Hall.....	98		
	Gross	Net	
	Score.	Allowance.	Score.
E. O. Arbuthnot.....	93	2	91
J. Cooper.....	109	18	91
Wade Gardner.....	99	6	93
E. Molloy.....	95	—	95
J. L. Scott.....	113	18	95
J. C. Johnston.....	96	—	96
H. S. Butterworth.....	105	8	97
Wm. Hardie.....	109	10	99
Dr. J. Ward Hall.....	111	10	101
E. W. Turner.....	122	18	104
R. Carr.....	116	9	107
A. L. Hall.....	118	11	107
W. C. Murray.....	126	18	108
C. Biron.....	124	14	110
G. W. Noel.....	132	18	114

6 Scores unreturned.

Result of Tie.

E. O. Arbuthnot.....	1
J. Cooper.....	2

Correspondence.

THE BITTER CRY.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In connection with the "Bitter Cry," that has been ventilated in your paper, I would bring to the notice of all interested, both sufferers and authorities, that the cost of the common necessities of life has materially increased within the last twelve months. The scale is as follows:—

	Present Price.	Former Price.
Sirloin of beef.....	15 cents per lb.	10-12 cents.
Beef and Suet.....	12 "	10 "
Lamb.....	18 "	16 "
Mutton.....	16 "	12 "
Veal.....	20 "	14 "
Pork.....	30 "	25 "
Fish.....	14 "	10 "
Vegetables about 25% increase.		

A few years ago prices were 20% less than the 2nd column, so that within a few years they have advanced about 40, and in some cases 50%.

The reasons adduced by the butchers and marketmen for these advances in prices are various, and, it may be, to a certain extent, valid; but I think it is within the province of our City Fathers, who are our Protectors, to look into this matter.

If they cannot do so, and nothing can be done, will there not be a limit to which these increases can go? As, if not, we, who earn our livings on fixed incomes, must reach breaking point.

I commend this subject to those who can take steps to bring us relief.

I have not touched on the subject of rents, as that has already been widely written about, but now increased taxation has been passed, this means further increase in rents, where landlords think they can get it, and increased expenditure in the taxes themselves, all swelling the

"BITTER CRY."

22nd March.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—As one who lives upon a fixed income, as a poor clerk, I am really glad to find that the present high cost of living in Shanghai is still a subject for "bitter cries" in the public Press.

Some means must, of necessity, be found to stay the visible tendency to still increase this cost, unless a general state of insolvency among the wage-earning class is deliberately created, in order to provoke an upheaval of some sort.

But I think that your correspondent "Bitter Cry" is appealing to a wrong quarter for relief. If I am not very much mistaken, last year some one in authority advised the public to resist the rapacity of the Chinese butchers, and, not long since, the same advice was repeated under another form as, it was said, no *raison d'être* could be found for the price of meat being raised so much; and, in spite of such good advice, we have been compelled to pay the butchers' prices according to their sweet will.

It is quite useless to tender good counsels when the adviser is not disposed to act, or to appeal to authorities that will only offer platonic counsels.

However, our City Fathers may take a more decided front, and I trust they will; although I do not see why a crusade should only be instituted against the native butchers and providers, when we are fleeced from all sides, even by the Municipal Council, who now charge us 2% more tax on the rents we pay to our landlords.

In this connection I think it is not too much to insist upon the fact that we were already burdened with an increased tax in consequence of the house rents having been raised, in some instances, over 100 per cent.

I have no doubt that, if the majority of foreigners in Shanghai had a voice in the matter, the proposed increase would be thrown out, as Dr. Ward Hall would have the majority of votes recorded in his favour. But, although he was defeated in his endeavours to prevent this extra burden being put upon our already weak shoulders, he none the less deserves being thanked by those whose cause he espoused. I wish therefore to register here my thanks for the battle he has fought on behalf of the weak.

In an abnormal time like the present, such a general squeeze as the one that is going merrily on in our Model Settlement, will be a puzzle for any future historian who may try to conciliate it with the idea of universal brotherhood among men at the end of the nineteenth century.

I am, etc.,

HOPELESS.

25th March.

THE COMPETITION IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—With much attention did I read the correspondence about the decline of the British hardware trade in this morning's issue of your paper.

Being somewhat interested in the matter, and, till a few years ago, well at the height of all the export business in Antwerp, it is with a certain astonishment that I read your correspondent's notices about special freight rates and other favours accorded to cargoes of hardware from that port.

I am sorry to see that—although one of your correspondents beats about the bush—none of them care to go deep enough into the question.

At first, by what means has the continental hardware trade made itself known in the East and how is it taking gradually the place of the British? First and above all by spending money, plenty of money, to introduce its produce to the buyer and in convincing the latter that it is possible to manufacture with reasonable profits, the same quality if not better, of any kind of hardware, at much lower rates than do the British, proving their words by the facts that having the raw material ready at hand and in many instances cheaper than the British, and being able to work it just as well and at much less expense than the latter, the continental manufacturer can sell his produce cheaper than his insular competitor.

On spending thus a larger percentage to bring his goods to the man and on being satisfied with a smaller profit, is it a wonder that he progresses?

Who has in late years made the most progress in the hardware trade of all South-eastern Europe? Is it not the Belgian? The same can be said of all the Far East.

If that famous freight question was of any importance in the matter do any of your readers think that the British manufacturer should wait a day to export his goods *via* Antwerp or another continental port where these favouring rates exist, considering the very low freights between the British ports and the Continent?

I am, etc.,

AN ANTWERP DUTCHMAN.

23rd March.

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THE OPENING OF HUNAN.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—On my return from Kingshan, on the 11th inst., I found a letter waiting me from Mr. P'eng Lan-seng, our Evangelist in Hunan. He had just been to Anjén, a city about 150 li to the east of Hêngshou, where he met with great success in his attempts to establish a mission. He had bought a house there, and had succeeded, without the least difficulty, in getting the magistrate to issue proclamations in favour of Christianity. In this letter he speaks of the movement towards Christianity in the Anjén district as something very remarkable.

He speaks also of the work at Hêngshan in very encouraging terms. He represents the prefect as well disposed, the people as quite friendly, and the Christians as meeting regularly for worship without molestation, or even interference on the part of any one. He expresses a hope that the foreign missionary might soon come and establish himself at Hêngshan and advises that in the event of ladies coming, they would not bring female servants with them, as he had his eye upon several Hunan women who would serve admirably in that capacity. Such were the prospects of the Mission up to February 28th last.

On Tuesday last I received another letter from Mr. P'eng, informing me of an attack made on our chapel at Hêngshan. On that day (February 28th) a festival in honour of Longevity Buddha was held, and the streets of Hêngshan were thronged with an immense concourse of people. The blacklegs of the place took advantage of the occasion to pull the house down and carry off everything they could lay their hands on. Fortunately no lives were lost and no person injured; but the house, so far as I can learn, is one mass of ruins.

I don't look upon this as altogether a disaster. It will, I think, prove to be among those things that work together for good in our efforts to open Hunan. The building will have to be restored, the damages will have to be made good, and the mission will be established on a firmer foundation than ever. When Mr. Sparham and myself visit the place in the following autumn, we shall find that this attack will have done much towards preparing the way for us.

Hunan is not open yet; but it is opening. The attitude of the authorities, and especially the higher authorities, has changed considerably. I enclose three proclamations which will interest many of your readers. One was issued by the Governor of Hunan in January last, and the others by the Anjén district magistrate in February. Both are good; but the former is of special interest as coming from the highest authority in the Province. H.E. Ch'en is well-known as being exceptionally liberal and progressive in his ideas. His proclamation seems to have been called forth by the representations made by Mr. Warren, H.B.M. Consul at Hankow, in consequence of the raid on our dépt at Hêngshan, and the burning of its contents by the *littérati*. That affair, thanks to Mr. Warren, has been settled quite satisfactorily. Everything is perfectly quiet there now.

But why not open Hunan at once? Why wait two years or even two months? What are we waiting for? The anti-foreign feeling in Hunan is a traditional sentiment, and will not pass away by waiting. There are tens of thousands in Hunan who are longing to see the province opened to intercourse, and they are to be found among the best of its population. They are thirsting for a knowledge of the English language and Western lore. Let Changsha be opened, and the anti-foreign sentiment will die down of its own accord; residence in that province will soon become as safe and pleasant as it is now in this. But Ch'angsha itself must be opened. Not

Siangyin, not Yochou, but Changsha. Open Changsha, and you open Hunan. The two important cities in Hunan are Changsha and Changtêh, and there is no reason why the gates of both should not be thrown wide open, and that without delay.

I am, etc.,

GRIFFITH JOHN.

Hankow, 19th March.

THE TAKU TUG
AND LIGHTER COMPANY.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Referring to the meeting of the above company the Chairman stated:—

"Referring to the coolie hire, you will find, that while we paid away \$49,600 on this account, we only received back \$26,000, so that the loss to the company amounts to about \$23,600. We have always lost money on the supply of coolies and the previous year's loss amounted to \$15,000, etc., etc., etc."

The above remark is, I think, a matter for serious reflection to the shareholders and I venture to state that with judgment the loss could have been minimised. \$38,600 loss in two years is a great deal. I hope that in future the Directors will study the interest of the company by making themselves better acquainted with the requirements of the Tientsin trade and direct their subordinates accordingly.

The large increase in the Portage Bills also requires attention. Having been unable to attend the annual meeting, I make my remarks public through the medium of your columns.

I am, etc.,

A SHAREHOLDER.

Shanghai, 24th March.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Though now told off to a very small part in our local pantomime, I, as one who very many years ago came in contact with the Chinese, was greatly interested in your admirable leading article of this morning. As you say many Europeans have been taken in by the pride and conceit of the Celestials not excepting that otherwise keen-sighted soldier Lord Wolseley, and I think that I may be pardonably proud of having sounded the character of the Chinese during my short journey through the country over 200 years ago. I am now a very old man, but I have since seen no reason to change the opinion that I then gave to Mr. Defoe, and which he has embodied in his history of my life. Vide pp. 456 and 457.

Every day brings the truth of my remarks more and more before the world and perhaps it would have been better for us if our statesmen had a little earlier condescended to seek for knowledge from

Yours very truly,

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

P.S.—I cannot be such an old fool when in the year 1692 I foresaw the danger to China of the Russian Bear.

Shanghai, 25th March.

Extract from *Robinson Crusoe*, pp. 456 and 457.

First we went ten days' journey to Nanking, a city well worth seeing; they say it has a million of people in it: it is regularly built, and the streets are all straight, and cross one another in direct lines. But when I compare the miserable people of these countries with ours, their fabrics, their manner of living, their government, their religion, their wealth, and their glory, as some call it, I must confess that I

scarcely think it worth my while to mention them here. We wonder at the grandeur, the pomp, the ceremonies, the government, the manufactures, the commerce and conduct of these peoples; not that there is really any matter for wonder, but because, having a true notion of the barbarity of those countries, the ignorance and the rudeness that prevail there, we do not expect to find any such things so far off. Otherwise what are their buildings to the palaces and royal buildings of Europe? What their trade to the universal commerce of England, Holland, France, or Spain? What are their cities to ours for wealth, strength, gaiety of apparel, rich furniture, and infinite variety? What are their ports, supplied with a few junks and barks, to our navigation, our merchant fleets, our large and powerful navies? Our City of London has more trade than half their mighty empire; one English, Dutch, or French man-of-war of eighty guns, would be able to fight almost all the shipping belonging to China; but the greatness of their wealth, their trade, the power of their government, and the strength of their armies may be a little surprising to us, because, as I have said, we do not expect such things among them, considering them as a barbarous nation of Pagans, little better than savages. But all the forces of their empire, though they were to bring two millions of men into the field together, would be able to do nothing but ruin the empire, and starve themselves; a million of their foot could not stand before one embattled body of our infantry, posted as we are not to be surrounded, though they were not to be one to twenty in number; nay, I do not boast if I say that thirty thousand German or English foot, and ten thousand horse, well managed, could defeat all the forces of China. Nor is there a fortified town in China that could hold out one month against the batteries and attacks of a European Army. They have firearms it is true, but they are awkward and uncertain in their going off; and their powder has but little strength. Their armies are badly disciplined, and want skill to attack, and temper to retreat; and therefore I must confess, it seemed strange to me when I came home, and heard our people say such fine things of the power, glory, magnificence and trade of the Chinese; because as far as I saw, they appeared to be a herd of ignorant sordid slaves, subjected to a government qualified only to rule such a people; and were not its distance inconceivably great from Muscovy, and that empire in a manner as rude and ill-governed as they, the Czar of Muscovy might with ease drive them all out of the country, and conquer them in one campaign; and had the Czar (who is now a growing prince) fallen this way, instead of attacking the warlike Swedes, and equally improved himself in the art of war, as they say he has done; and if none of the Powers of Europe had envied or interrupted him, he might by this time have been Emperor of China, instead of being beaten by the King of Sweden at Narva, when the latter was not one to six in number.

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Miscellaneous.

THE STRANDING OF THE CHINA.

A private telegram was received here on Saturday morning, announcing that the P. & O. mail steamer *China* had gone ashore off Perim. We have now a Reuter's telegram, stating that she was full of water and would probably be a total loss, and we have also received copies of the P. & O. Co.'s telegrams courteously sent us by Mr. E. A. Hewett:—

"*China* has gone ashore at Perim at 10.30 a.m. Thursday. Passengers all landed safely. Steamer has gone to her assistance."

And later, from Aden:—

"All the passengers are saved, all well, and have been transferred to s.s. *Carthage*, proceeding to their destination to-day or to-morrow. All the mails and specie have been saved."

In his speech to his shareholders on the 10th of December last, Sir Thomas Sutherland said: "The *Aden* points the moral to a certain extent, although the sacrifice involved, pecuniarily speaking, is one of small amount, but if it had been one of our vessels costing £250,000, the result would have been of a totally different character, and I need hardly tell you, because I am sure you perceive it yourselves, that our largest and fastest ships are the ships that are exposed to the gravest risk; they carry the burden of working the mail contract, are therefore, every day and every hour they are at sea, exposed to risks which slower vessels are certainly not exposed to in the same measure." The *China* was one of the new large and fast ships referred to by Sir Thomas. She was a steamer of 7,899 tons gross, and 1,395 nominal horse-power, 500.5 feet in length, 54.1 feet in breadth, and 25.1 feet deep, built by Harland and Wolff at Belfast at the end of 1895, and was on her homeward way at the time of the accident. She was commanded by Capt. de Horne, who was well known in Shanghai. It is satisfactory that, as far as we know, there was no loss of life, and the mails and specie have been saved. The passengers have been sent on with remarkable promptitude, though no doubt they must have suffered considerable inconvenience.

Among the homeward-bound passengers in the *China* were Mrs. Wade Gardner and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Platt, of Shanghai.

PROCLAMATIONS BY HUNAN OFFICIALS.

(Specially Translated for the N.-C. Daily News.)

We give below our translation of the proclamations referred to in Dr. John's letter published in these columns yesterday.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

Ch'en, decorated with the official button of the premier civil grade, *ex officio* Vice-President of the Board of War and of the Court of Censors, Governor of Hunan province and the dependencies thereof, Superior Officer in command of the Brigadier-Generals of the said province, an Commander-in-Chief of the provincial forces, Inspector-General and Chief Commissioner of the Commissariat and Army Pay Departments of Hunan, etc., etc., hereby issues the following most important proclamation for the information of all concerned:—

Permission to foreigners to propagate the Christian religion and to travel into the interior of the Empire is, as a matter of fact, recorded in the Treaties between China and foreign countries and sanctioned by Imperial edict. It, therefore, rests upon us all as faithful officers of the Crown and all subjects of the Throne to

reverentially obey the Imperial commands. In this way there would be peace on all sides and, moreover, we would sustain our country's reputation as the Land of Proprieties and Courteous Kindness. But there have been desperadoes who by disseminating groundless rumours created riots, under the name of public indignation, against missionary chapels and served their own ends to obtain plunder and pillage. The result was that often law-abiding but ignorant people were led astray and assisted these very rowdies to deeds of savagery. Troubles then arose and serious riots with grave responsibilities to all concerned resulted. Surely no one can be so ignorant as to fail to perceive that such crimes as arson, murder, collecting a mob to fight or plunder, are always severely punished by law, the more guilty ones to decapitation or strangulation, and those of lesser guilt given to the cage and corporal punishment with the bamboo or banishment. The laws of the land are all built on the principles of justice and common sense. Although there are such differences as division of countries and empires and hence there is a China and Foreign Countries, no distinction can be made between Chinese and Foreigners in the eye of the law of the land. Even as foreigners come to our country and live among us so does the Emperor regard them in equal terms of sympathy as he does those of his own people. To turn or put to the sword a Chinese is always followed by the prompt punishment of the murderer; is it strange, forsooth, that a murderer of a foreigner should also be punished in the same manner—by death? This is plain enough and most easy for all to understand.

For instance, last year at Kutien, (Kucheng or Hwasang) province of Fukien, of the men connected with the burning of a missionary chapel there and the murder of a number of missionaries no less than twenty-six were executed for their crimes. Now these were all composed of men who premeditated the deed, hence their sanguinary ends were brought upon themselves by their own hand, and no one was to blame but themselves. But suppose there had been some amongst them who had been led astray by the specious and evil influences of others. To such as those who paid the forfeit of their lives, in that matter, what glory was there? What kind of an ending was theirs? Surely this cannot be said to be like dying in the front rank of battle fighting the enemies of their country? Can they, therefore, be called patriotic heroes by posterity? But the misery of it was that they died the victims of evil counsellors—desperadoes who had plainly defied the Imperial edicts by their acts. What appropriate term can we bestow upon these foolish victims of misplaced trust?

When countries resume peaceful relations with one another friendly intercourse is at once restored on both sides; what profit then can there possibly be to the country at large if in some sudden brawl a few lives are lost? The murderers only put to the test the sharpness of the executioner's sword upon the bodies transmitted to them by their parents—and all for nothing—while their kith and kin are loaded with the ignominy of it! Who then can refrain from a chill of horror when contemplating the risks that are run under such circumstances?

Now it has been again and again proved that all rumours that have been circulated about missionary chapels were merely the product of the imagination of a set of rowdies and desperadoes. Indeed, the late first Marquis Tseng Kuo-fan, who stood at the head of his generation in ancient sage-like qualities, when occupied in Tientsin investigating the Great Riot [of 1870] after most careful and searching enquiries found out to his entire satisfaction that the alleged causes which inflamed the populace to riot and murder were after all nothing but myths and wholly without

foundation. To prove this still further it has also been demonstrated that the rumours against missionary chapels which led to riots in other provinces and which happened after the Great Riot were also found to be myths and similar in substance to what had been discovered by the late Marquis Tseng.

It is apparent, therefore, that even if in some instances certain bias may have been shown in giving the results of such investigations, it is hardly likely that all of the high officials who conducted these enquiries through a period of many years, could possibly have been biased in the same way as to be so unanimous as to one and all declare that all the rumours which had been disseminated to create riots were "entirely baseless."

The matter of fact is that these disseminators and manufacturers of anti-missionary riots merely do so from selfish and personal greed for gain, intending to take advantage of the disturbances they have raised to plunder and enrich themselves at will. The guilt of such men can therefore only be placed at the same level as any common murderer or incendiary; the mischief and disasters they bring upon others are equally crimes against humanity, and as cold-blooded and merciless as is the most pronounced assassin. I have therefore determined to treat such criminals when caught in the first instance on the same basis as the law declares should be the sentence of the anonymous placardist, viz.—death by strangulation, and on such basis give the severest sentences on the guilty.

Hence I would earnestly exhort my people and all observers of law and order to turn a deaf ear to the specious disseminators of such rumours and guard against their evil influences which only lead to the commission of grave and serious crimes. My sincere hope is that, from the day of the propagation of this proclamation, you may look upon and treat all propagators of the Christian religion from foreign countries in the same light as you generally treat the professors of Buddhism or Taoism; that you would treat foreign travellers passing through your towns and villages with the same courtesy as you would treat your own countrymen from distant provinces travelling through your native province. Let each man live his daily, quiet life, and pursue his own avocations and thereby enjoy the blessings of peace which is the heritage of all. In this way you will not disappoint me, nor render void the earnest words of advice I now give you in this proclamation. For if any of you turn a deaf ear to them you may rest perfectly assured that once you are found guilty of breaking the laws you will find that I am not the one to gloss over your crimes nor likely to show leniency in your cases. You will then find it too late to repent of your follies. It is for this that I now issue to you all my proclamation and it behoves all of you to pay earnest and respectful heed to these my words. Beware how you disobey!

Published for general information. To be placarded throughout this province and dependencies. 23rd Year of Kuang Hsi, 28th day of the 12th moon (18th January, 1898).

THE ANJEN DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S PROCLAMATION.

Ying, decorated with the brevet button of a sub-prefect (5th rank), and specially appointed district magistrate of Anjen-hsien, prefecture of Hêngchou, province of Hunan, etc., hereby issues the following proclamation for the purpose of imposing strict prohibition upon certain conduct of the people.

I have received a dispatch from H.E. Huang, acting Provincial Judge, who gives the substance of a communication H.E. had received from H.E. Chang, the Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces. H.E. the Viceroy

states that he has received a despatch from Warren, H.B.M. Consul at Hankow, to the effect that the British Missionary, Dr. Griffith John, had petitioned to the said Consul complaining that anti-missionary disturbances had recently occurred in the prefecture of Hengchou, Hunan, which in gravity exceeded all previous disturbances. The said petitioner states that he had received a letter from the Rev. P'eng Lan-seng, a member of the petitioner's Society, reporting that "on the 16th day of the 10th month last (10th November, 1897), just before the collegiate examinations held by the Hengshan College, a mob suddenly appeared before the doors of the Society's Book-shop, situated within the house of one Li Yu-keng, a convert, who breaking into the place tore into shreds all the books contained therein as well as all articles of clothing, and smashed all furniture, etc., found by the mob in the said place. There were others also who took a quantity of the said books to the banks of the river and made a bonfire of them, destroying all vestiges of the said Book-shop." The petitioner therefore prayed that a despatch be at once sent to the proper authorities demanding the punishment of the guilty persons.

H.E. the Viceroy, therefore, instructed the acting Provincial Judge of Hunan, and the latter official has sent instructions to the prefect and to me and to the district magistrate of Hengshanhsien to act at once on the said instructions. We have been ordered to make vigorous enquiries into the origin of the alleged disturbances; to issue prohibitory proclamations strictly forbidding further riotous conduct such as had been complained of, and to devise speedy means of giving adequate protection to the said missionaries. On the other hand we shall pursue secret investigations in order to find out the leaders of the said riot and when captured they will be punished to the severest extent permitted by law. We have further been ordered to find out the extent of the damage made by the rioters and satisfactorily make good all claims therefor, in order that the whole case may be settled and finished with.

Now, foreigners who come to the interior to propagate their religion or to sell their books really have no object but to exhort people to be good. Furthermore they do so by consent of H.I.M. the Emperor who has had treaties made to that effect and who has again and again issued Imperial Edicts calling upon all of us to grant protection to the missionaries. It is our duty to reverentially obey the sacred commands. I therefore call upon you my subjects of all classes to bear in mind, and I desire to impress it upon you all, that foreigners coming to us to propagate their religion and to sell their books solely aim at exhorting all people to be good men; but on the other hand people are free to act upon their own inclinations whether to join their creed or not. There is no compulsion in the least. You are not compelled to buy their books, you may buy or leave them just as it may suit your own pleasure and inclinations. If, therefore, you remember that the foreigners are only acting under treaty rights, you should supplement the efforts of your superiors in giving that welcome and attention which are courtesies due to every stranger from afar who comes to our gates. I therefore exhort you fathers to teach your sons, elder brothers to enjoin upon your younger brethren, to listen to my counsel and that, after the publication of this proclamation, to repress yourselves and avoid giving way to the reckless ardour of young blood only to be made to suffer the consequences of your youthful follies when it would be only too late to repent of your rashness. Let one and all carefully obey my proclamation.

24th year of Kuang Hsi, 17th day of the 1st moon (7th February 1898).

FOUR-METRICAL PROCLAMATION BY THE SAME MAGISTRATE.

The object of the London Missionary Society
Is to exhort people to be good.
The sacred books of Jesus
Are disseminated throughout the land;
When the Missionary preaches his true religion
It behoves all to listen in silence.
Your officials only obey the treaties
In protecting them at all times
Rowdies must therefore be strictly forbidden
And prevented from creating disturbances.
Should any dare to disobey me
They will be most severely punished.
7th February, 1898.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PERMANENT MEMORIAL FUND.

The undernoted subscriptions have not previously been publicly acknowledged:—
The North-China Insurance Co., Ltd. £200
"X.Y.Z." 25

The following are new and additional subscriptions:—

D. Ross, Shaweishan Light Station	£ 4
A. Hide	10
W. Cloney	20
Paul King	10
Mrs. Paul King	10
Mrs. F. Anderson	25
R. S. Furlong	100
T. R. Wheelock	25
F. Anderson (additional)	50
G. James Morrison (additional)	25
Thos. W. Kingsmill (additional)	15
Anonymous per Dr. Macleod	100
A. Thurburn	\$10

Mr. W. D. Little, honorary treasurer of the fund, will be very pleased to receive and acknowledge additional subscriptions.

The following are more additional subscriptions:—

David Sassoon, Sons & Co.	£100
E. D. Sassoon & Co.	100
E. A. Probst	100
Liddell Bros & Co.	100
David Brand	25
J. Cooper	25
E. A. Hewett	25
R. H. R. Burder	10
William Dobie	10
J. Paterson	5

The following are new subscriptions:—
Mrs. Alford £100
A. Friend 100
N. E. Cornish 50
Gilbert Davies 25
R. Inglis 25
F. Souter 25
Anonymous 25

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CUSTOMS' STAFF.

The following is the Inspector-General's reply to the appeal, the text of which we published more than a month ago. There is not much sympathy or comfort in it for the sufferers, and it will be seen that at its date the appeal had not been laid before the Tsungli Yamén. It is to be hoped that the Staff will soon receive more cheering news; but meanwhile they are losing heart:—

Inspectorate General of Customs,
Peking, 13th January 1898.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your despatch No. 1,942 of the 23rd December:

Appeal for readjustment of salaries from Foreign Staff in Customs forwarded: and in reply have to state that I fully understand how the fall in exchange has affected all classes and if I were myself in a position to give effect to my wishes salaries would be issued to all Europeans

at the rate of exchange which ruled when the Service was first established; power to act thus, as you very well know, is not in my hands, and as the fixed office allowance can only be increased after an Imperial Decree has given approval of a Yamén Memorial proposing such increase, it will be necessary to submit the matter to the Yamén, and this I shall presently do.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT HART,
Inspector-General.

A. E. HIPPLISLEY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs,
Tientsin.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Interpretation of the New Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. By Henry E. Pollock, Barrister at-law. 8vo., 133 pp. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Hongkong, Shanghai, Singapore, and Yokohama. 1898.

Weeping Ferry and other Stories. By Margaret L. Woods. 8vo., 307 pp. Longmans' Colonial Library. Shanghai, Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. 1898.

The Korean Repository. February, 1898. 8vo., 40 pp. Seoul, the Trilling Press.

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the United States of America. Sermons, Proceedings, Reports, etc., for 1897. 8vo., 328 pp. New York, published at Church Missions House. 1897.

The School for Saints. By John Oliver Hobbes, 8vo., 514 pp. Unwin's Colonial Library. London, 1897.

Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker. By S. Weir Mitchell, M. D. 8vo., 485 pp. With illustrations. Unwin's Colonial Library. London, 1897.

THE LOSS OF THE MAINE.

Widespread gloom prevails throughout the United States, occasioned by the tragic loss of the battleship *Maine*, and popular feeling runs high in denunciation of the Spanish authorities. That ultimate trouble between the two Governments is not altogether unexpected is manifested by the following extracts taken from our American exchanges which arrived by the *Gaelic* on Wednesday:—

New York, 17th February.

A Sun special from Washington says:—The Administration realises fully as the general public can the force and wisdom of its ancient admonition "In time of peace prepare for war." This is just what the Administration has been doing for several months past, and the increased activity among the officials of the War and Navy Departments noticeable during the past day or two means that they are arranging to reap at a moment's notice the fruits of what they have sown. If the declaration of war comes to-morrow or next week or next month, the Government will not be wholly unprepared.

Key West, 20th February.

It is learned from what may be considered a semi-official source that the divers sent down on behalf of the United States to examine the wreck of the battleship *Maine* have made a preliminary report of the result of their work. Incredible as it may seem, after a partial examination of the magazines of the *Maine* the divers report that the one in which the explosion is supposed to have occurred is intact. According to the informant, the contents of the magazine are unharmed. Therefore, if this report be true, an entirely different aspect is given to the terrific explosion which brought death and destruction to the *Maine*.

This report reaching Key West it is said, caused the members of the Court of Enquiry to decide to proceed to Havana to-day and begin their investigation at once instead of organising the Court here.

Washington, 20th February.

The Naval Court of Enquiry appointed to investigate the *Maine* disaster will begin its work at Havana to-morrow. This news came to the Navy Department this morning from Admiral Sicard, at Key West, in a telegram dated yesterday. He simply telegraphed as follows: "The Court of Enquiry sails for Havana on the 20th by the lighthouse steamer *Mangrove*. Lieutenant-Commander Marix arrived to-day."

New York, 21st February.

The *Sun's* Washington special says: Outwardly there was little to-day in the big stone building occupied by the State, War and Navy Departments to indicate any serious state of affairs. But behind the official curtain things were going on that were known only to a few persons. The gist of these is that extensive preparations are being made to fit the Navy for a hostile emergency and to guard the various cities of the Atlantic seaboard from sudden attack. There was nothing in the telegrams received to-day from Consul-General Lee and Captain Sigbee to throw any light on the cause of the terrible disaster. The investigation is now practically out of Captain Sigbee's hands, as the Board of Enquiry arrived to-day and will begin their duties at once.

22nd February.

A despatch to the *World* from Havana says Consul-General Lee to-day informally advised Americans, not necessarily detained there, to leave at once for home. The advice implies that those on the ground realise their inability to protect women and children in case of trouble. The *Herald* says: Americans in Havana have been quietly notified by Consul-General Lee that it might be well for them to send their families to a place of safety. These precautions were taken in view of the fact that there is a strong suspicion that the volunteers, anti-Americans, and anti-Autononists have been inspired to create trouble in case the *Maine* enquiry proves that the catastrophe was due to design. In justice to the authorities in Havana, it may be said that they are taking every precaution in their power to protect all foreigners alike.

A *Sun* special from Havana says: A very sensational editorial was printed this afternoon in *La Lucha* against Captain Sigbee. It says that Captain Sigbee is unlawfully forming a part of the Court of Enquiry which is investigating the case of the disaster to the *Maine*. *La Lucha* adds that the Captain is a judge in his own case, and that, therefore, all conclusions of the Court of Enquiry will be inadmissible by every principle of justice.

La Lucha, like all the other Spanish newspapers here, chooses to take the view that Captain Sigbee is responsible for the disaster, which was caused by accident, as a result of carelessness and lack of discipline on board the battle-ship. The attack of *La Lucha* on the Captain is a very violent one.

TO THE DEAF!

A rich lady cured of her deafness and noises in the Head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums sent £1000, to his Institute so that Deaf Persons who have not the means to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply by letter to C. O. BRIGHT, Secretary, 54, Bow Lane, London, E. C.

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14th Jan., 1898,

FRESH TOUCHES TO A FAMOUS PICTURE.

To many students of modern history the thought must have occurred, that it is to France we owe all that is most romantic in European archives. Looking back over three centuries only, how comparatively prosaic would their annals appear, without the court chronicles of *le Grand Monarque*, the terrible tragedy of the French Revolution, the stories of the first and second empires, with their fiction-dwarfing vicissitudes!

Such impression has been deepened in one's mind by the recently published "New Letters of Napoleon I." These papers are said to have been formerly withheld by command of Napoleon III, as disparaging to his great predecessor's personal character, or detracting from the prestige of his near relatives and trusted agents. However true this may be as to the last-named motive of *suppressio veri* (though we do not think Napoleon's kindred, at least, had any character to lose), it does not strike us that these letters reveal distinctly fresh characteristics of their writer, but merely deepen the lines of the famous and familiar portrait—the genius for domination, the extraordinary self-confidence, the inextinguishable hopefulness, the all-devouring ambition, the ferocious disregard of human lives, diplomacy degraded into duplicity and cunning. While unquestionably the nobler side of the Emperor's character is not without demonstration in this volume; we are reminded of his generous spirit of clanship, his patience with the brethren so unworthy of his gifts. There is real pathos in some of his correspondence with these men, whose petty self-seeking and treacherous ingratitude serve to illustrate their benefactor's long-suffering placability.

The brother on whom, from his childhood, he had lavished affection and kindness, Louis, King of Holland, in the very act of sowing discord between his kingdom and France, is taken ill. "I desire my physician to attend the King," Napoleon writes. "He is dear to me; I shall look on all service Dr. Latour shall render him as though rendered to myself."

And when the last storm clouds are shadowing his career, he writes to *Madame Mère*: "Louis shows little generosity in thus coming to insult me, and obliging me to act severely, when the whole of Europe is rising up against me, and my heart is wrung with anguish. But I am ready to forgive him; not as remembering his conduct of the last ten years, but the love I bore him in his childhood."

Perhaps no Napoleonic record has brought out, as do many of these letters, the extraordinary attention to *minutiae* in every department of imperial control, which, while contrasting so curiously with the colossal outlines of the great conqueror's projects, yet doubtless contributed immeasurably to their achievement. Now it is the title of an Amsterdam newspaper, which must be changed to the *Courier*; the *Moniteur* suggests government endorsement. Now it is the ceremonial detail of the Archduchess Marie Louise's progress to Paris for their marriage. Then a general must be summoned by post, not telegraph (whatever process in those pre-electric days, may be implied); as the latter would mislead him as to his importance. Where military arrangements are concerned, such particularity is ubiquitous and incessant.

The volume would be almost worth issuing if only for the crowning revelation of character contained in the closing letter, written to his brother Joseph, his then representative in Paris. The very date is thrilling, June 19, 1815! Waterloo fought a few short hours ago!

"All is not lost. I shall still have 150,000 men remaining. . . . I will

horse my artillery with carriage-horses; I will raise 100,000 conscripts: I will raise the whole of Dauphiné, the Lyonnais, and Burgundy: I will overwhelm the enemy." One seems to hear the echo of the victorious vauntings graven on stone by haughty Assyrian despots, in zenith of power and flush of conquest, rather than the utterance of a vanquished fugitive in desperate extremity. Truly we have here the ruling passion strong in defeat! Hundreds of thousands yet to be added to the millions he has already massed for massacre, all Europe over.

Yet is there an undeniable grandeur in such unquenchable pluck; nor can one withhold from this fallen tyrant a certain admiring compassion—even though it be compassion as misplaced as that expressed by the little child gazing on the beasts of prey in Doré's picture of Meronian persecution, "The Arena after the Conflict": "Mother, one of those poor tigers has no Christian to eat."

This publication would gain in interest for the general reader, were the letters linked together by occasional, however slight, historic notes.

ALICE JANE MUIREHEAD.

FREIGHTS AND FOREIGN COMPETITION IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

Messrs. Collins & Co., of London and Tientsin have sent us the following copy of some correspondence between representative shipowners and ironmasters in England with reference to the competition created by the freight by conference steamers to the detriment of British trade:—

17, Water Street, Liverpool.

10th January, 1893.

Messrs. The Pearson and Knowles
Coal and Iron Co., Ltd.,
Warrington.

DEAR SIRS,—We enclose a copy of manifest of a cargo landed at Bombay by one of the steamers from Hamburg, Antwerp, etc. This is one of many in our possession, which we shall be pleased to show if desired.

Our object in now addressing you is to bring this matter more particularly before you, and to see if something cannot be done for our mutual benefit in the way of preventing these large orders going to the Continent, and securing them for shipment hence. We may mention that one of our local shippers last week informed us that they had 1,000 tons steel just going from Antwerp, in three steamers, only. We have recently reduced our rate of freight to try to induce business, and would point out that it is now less than charged by the Continental lines. We are therefore hopeful of your being able to help matters in the direction indicated, otherwise we fear this "iron and steel" business will be drawn to the Continent altogether.

Yours truly,
(Signed) HENDERSON BROTHERS.

15th January, 1898.

Messrs. Henderson Brothers,
Water Street, Liverpool.

DEAR SIRS,—We have to thank you for your favour of 10th instant. The figures that you are good enough to put before us tell a tale with which we are unfortunately only too familiar, but we are glad to note that you, at any rate, among British shipowners, begin to realise the gravity of the position, which we have all to face, in regard to this foreign competition—it has all but extinguished our Eastern trade in iron and steel, and substituted German and Belgian productions for what was, only a

very few years ago, exclusively of British manufacture. We look upon it that we have, mainly if not entirely, to thank the policy of the steamship conferences for this result. To trace the origin from which all our troubles have sprung we must go back some years, to the time when the export iron trade of Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Hamburg was in its infancy—and the great shipping lines imagined that they had found a new customer whose trade would constitute an addition to what they already carried from British ports. In vain we and others protested, in season and out of season, that every ton of iron shipped from abroad meant one ton less shipped from home. Our protests were ignored, and we were told that if one line did not do the trade, another would; and that the future and the British maker must look after themselves. Preferential rates were offered all round for the new freights from foreign ports, while similar advantages were persistently refused to old customers in this country whose trade was considered to be safe and in no danger of leaving its usual channels. The opening thus made was promptly seized upon by a certain section of British merchants, who, in their eagerness to undersell home competitors, by any means and at all hazards, took no thought that foreign traders would inevitably follow foreign goods, to the ultimate discomfiture of the British maker, merchant, and shipowner alike. It is true that for a time our own well-known brands maintained their position, but by dint of the perseverance of our antagonists and the experience gained from repeated failures—and also in consequence of a general lowering of the tone of the trade—by degrees one line of business after another was wrested from our hands. The result appears in the returns you have sent us for perusal.

The normal difficulties of a British manufacturer in connection with the peculiarities of British workmen and the unnecessary extra expenses entailed by Government interference in all directions, were handicap enough at the outset. With these we might have struggled, and still held our places, but the final stroke which shattered our connection came from the hands of the British shipowners, and now our Eastern trade has all but gone, our Western trade is little better, and even home trade is imperilled by a continuance of similar tactics, which enable American and other tariff-protected producers, by specially low freights, to dump their surplus stocks in this country at any price they will fetch. What is the remedy for this state of things we cannot yet decide, though we have revolutionised our methods of working and reduced our profits to a minus quantity in attempting to solve the problem, but the first step in the right direction is undoubtedly for the shipowners to reverse their recent policy in our favour, and give to home manufacturers and British ports a preference in freight such as they at one time accorded, and still in many cases accord, to everything that was foreign. We are not yet quite played out, but the breathing space which we have before us is in our opinion of short duration, and unless we have some systematic assistance from all who are interested in the prosperity of British trade, the end will soon be in sight.

Perhaps you will be good enough to place our views before the members of your conference for consideration, and if evidence is required to substantiate their correctness, we would commend to your perusal Mr. Chamberlain's Blue Book on this very subject, which shows how far-reaching have been the effects of the policy of which we complain.

Yours truly,

FOR THE PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL
AND IRON CO., LD.

(Signed) JNO. J. BLECKLY,
Director.

A CYCLE OF OPIUM IN CATHAY.

The introduction of western civilisation into China, while bringing many blessings to the people, has not been unaccompanied by giant evils. Prominent among these is opium-smoking. Three-score years ago scarcely known along the coast, it has spread with great rapidity over the eighteen provinces. One of the principal articles of trade in the Middle Kingdom is opium. On the arrival of the great liners, the dailies tell us of the amount of specie and the number of passengers and chests of opium landed on these shores. In the Indian budget, up to a recent date, opium has been mentioned as a prominent source of revenue, and in the Chinese Imperial Customs, six out of twenty million taels come from opium. The British government in India cultivates opium, and in Central and Western China, fields of the poppy—its flowers so beautiful to the eye but with the poison of asps under its petals—are to be seen in many sections. In the Chefoo Convention the principal article settled by Sir Thomas Wade and Li Hung-chang was the duty on opium. Certainly then it is a subject that merits consideration.

THE NUMBER OF OPIUM SMOKERS is simply appalling. Of the one hundred million adult males in China one-tenth may with safety be put down as addicted to the habit. When the statistics of the opium districts are obtained, the number will no doubt be found to be much larger, but ten million slaves are enough for one land! Knowing that the Chinese are constitutionally inaccurate, and that at the Dispensaries the question is simply asked each patient, "Do you smoke opium?" and his answer "Yes" or "No" is recorded, I applied to a physician whose hospital books are kept by a foreigner, in the hope of obtaining statistics in a measure trustworthy. His answer was: "Our records are not near correct, as we record what we can get from each man, except when it is entirely unmistakable that the patient is an opium smoker. In the city my opinion is that of men over twenty years of age, a light estimate would be to say that one out of every three smokes opium, the amount increasing with the age of the party in a regular ascending scale."

It is a vice that prevails among the poor as well as among the rich; in the country as well as in the city. From the Governor-General in the Viceregal capital to the lowest constable in his thatched hut, it pervades all ranks and conditions of the people. Of Szechuan, the Texas of China, with a population reputed to be equal to that of the United States, it is said that "everybody smokes." Even little boys chew the castaway pods of the poppy, thus in childhood imbibing a taste for the drug.

THE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING year by year. It is not like the tide which ebbs and flows, but like a great bore rushing up the bays and rivers, and pressing steadily forward in its roaring, dashing, maddened career. In the cities the proportion is rudely estimated by the natives as one-half or seven-tenths of the adult males, and some towns are wholly under the sway of the narcotic. I mention one fact for which I can witness. Twenty years ago the farmers, who are dependent on their annual harvest and have little ready money, were almost entirely exempt from the ravages of opium: now the evil is slowly making headway in the agricultural districts. In many sections of the country one or two dens are found in every hamlet. Another fearful factor in the trade is

THE INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT smoked by individuals. Twenty years ago one who used two or three mace per

dram was in Soochow considered a "heavy smoker"—moderate smokers used much less—now that amount is not considered extraordinary. Three or four mace is not spoken of as high and half-an ounce is not uncommon. Six and seven mace are sometimes mentioned. When men are able to purchase opium by the ball and prepare it at home, as a general rule, they smoke inordinately.

A short time since at 5 p.m. I called on a young man of wealth, who two years ago employed a foreigner to teach him English at \$100 a month for two hours each afternoon. "He is not up yet," said the janitor. "Is he sick?" "No; he smokes opium all night." "How much?" "An ounce a day." This would make two and one-half pounds avoirdupois a month, and that by one of weak constitution. A short time afterwards I was in the house about sunset, and his wife said it was no use trying to wake him; that his sleep was so sound, it amounted almost to a torpor prefiguring the sleep of death. How long before the undertaker will be called in it is hard to say!

One of long experience affirms: "The average daily consumption has increased three-fold within the last forty years and apparently it is to go on increasing." Used by the wholesale, opium is a dangerous commodity.

THE EASE WITH WHICH THE HABIT IS FIXED is also to be considered. Suppose at home our young men who with convivial companions make merry over the wine cup were to become habitual drunkards in a couple of months' time, what would be the condition of England and America? This is frequently, yes, most generally the case, with those who visit the smoking dens for pleasure. In a brief period, quicker than most of the vices that are the bane of the human race, opium rivets its chains, and the habits clings to the victim for life.

A few years ago friends met at the teasops and sipped the national beverage, which, as they say, "makes the eyes so bright;" now, the invitation is to the opium den. Then men transacted business in the teasops; now they settle their affairs in the opium dens. Then a cup of tea was offered in the reception-hall; now, the opium pipe. "Treating" makes the fifth among the relations in China, that of "friend to friend," a very dangerous one, as in this way temptation is constantly thrown in the path of persons of all ages.

If a man has been absent from the city, on his return the salutation he receives the first day from a dozen friends, "Have a whiff of opium?" "I do not smoke." "But come, you must; we are all friends. I'll pay for it." Thus many currents unite in sweeping the frail bark of China's manhood into the deep waters of an uncontrollable habit. The servant lies opposite his master and fills his pipe; the son stands beside his father's divan, and imbibes the fumes and alas! the craving as well.

A FASCINATING VICE.

No one questions the fact that opium smoking is a captivating pastime. The victim will say, "Fragrant! very fragrant!! very, very fragrant!!!" As men begin to light their pipes they sing in delightful anticipation of the luxury that awaits them in dream-land; forgetting the ills of life as they pass a blissful hour in Paradise. As the fumes envelop the soul, visions of the beautiful rise before the imagination and "the tongue wags" as with great rapidity they tell how fortune will lend her willing hand to assist in every enterprise that human wisdom can devise. Opium produces a certain stimulus and its victim can transact business better after indulging in the pipe. It is a solace under the many trials of Asiatic existence. Alas! how many hours are wasted by those who use it. The Chinese "expectant mandarins" and their

host of retainers, the landed gentry and the people generally, have too much time on their hands, and they will readily yield to the pleasing effects of the drug imported from Malwa and Patna. It is especially during the watches of the night that its votaries indulge in revellings and drunkenness, i.e., drunk with opium. This is witnessed by foreigners running up and down the canals on the tugs. Some men will smoke constantly for two hours at a time, others will take their pipe every hour of the night till towards daylight when they will fall into a heavy slumber. The breathing is short, as opium is said in a slight degree to paralyse the muscles around the heart.

THE "YIN" OR CRAVING.

The opium-smoker is absolutely dependent on his regular "meals." When the yin or craving comes he must have his pipe; he is utterly helpless without it, and cannot think or work. "The craving is but the return of the subsequent depression after the effect of the stimulant has passed off." As the proverb says: "If his mother is dying in the next room, when the yin comes, the smoker must have his pipe." "At the appointed time he feels disinclined to exertion and his only comfort is to relieve his discomfort by taking the pipe." If deprived of the drug it produces sufferings of an excruciating kind. "This craving becomes stronger and stronger the longer the habit is continued.

This illustrates what a bane to the army opium is. Were the foe in sight and his batteries opening fire, the "brave" must first lie upon the ground sheltered from the wind and smoke his pipe; after that he is ready to fight in battle. His motto is, "First my opium, then my country." The threatened partition of China is a factor in the near future unless the enemy within her camp be removed. To this end the Anti-Opium League will bend its first energies, and all who have the interests of this patriarch of nations at heart will wish success to its efforts.

THE OPIUM DEN.

There are a few opium palaces at the ports and in the large cities which are handsomely furnished with richly cushioned couches of rosewood and marble, and to these the wealthy resort. To the whole number, however, they are not one in ten-thousand. For the 9,999 a heavy curtain in front to prevent the ingress of air—for a slight breeze drives away the volatilised drug—is the sign of a den. The room is dark and filled with sickening fumes, and around the wall on beds covered with a strip of matting lie the wretched sons of Han. To go into the room has the same effect on the Westerner as *mal de mer*. These dens are suspected as the haunts of bad characters, so each one in Sochow has upon the door a broad white circle to indicate the place to the police.

Efforts in years past have been made in many cities by honourable mandarins to close these dens. This has a salutary effect, for though the smoker may use the drug in his home yet the temptation to those who have not the habit fixed and to those who "treat" is taken away. The leader in this, in Kiangsu, was the late Governor T'ien, a Martin Luther, who closed the thousands of dens, and on the door of each private residence had registered the numbers of opium smokers within, so that it could be seen that there was no increase. The people were seized with terror and many threw away their pipes.

THE POVERTY AND SUFFERING.

Political economy in the Middle Kingdom has dealt with one great problem and that is, how shall these countless millions be fed? The country yields but a bare subsistence to her teeming population. The arable land that is withdrawn from grain and devoted to the poppy lessens the supply of bread-

stuffs in a country where suffering humanity calls for bread. The rate of wages is necessary for economic living. If then the money intended for the purchase of rice goes for opium what is to fill the mouths? Each of the two million slaves consumes from \$15 to \$150 (or even more) *per annum*; what an immense sum it aggregates! This by men on wages from \$3 to \$5 per month. In what a molten stream does silver flow out of the country!

Opium consumers may be divided into three pretty equal classes. The first, those who can afford to use it. The second, those who with opium, are barely able to purchase the necessities of life. The third, those who are reduced to abject poverty. There is nothing that draws on the sympathies of visitors from the prosperous lands of the West more than to behold the wide-spread poverty in Asia. The little that China has, opium, like Pharaoh's lean kine, eats up. The lazy, idle habits engendered, the inability to work, the unwillingness to make any exertion, are characteristics of the habitual devotion to the pipe.

The opium smoker borrows right and left, and seldom pays, and the pawn-broker flourishes on his misfortunes. The wife desires to visit her relatives and goes to her trunk for her nice cloak, when suddenly screams fill the house! Her husband has pawned the garment! "Stealing his wife's clothes" is the special accomplishment of the impecunious opium-smoker. Where the father consumes three-fourths of his gains in opium, the children have insufficient clothing in winter or they are in rags, and the mother toils all day at embroidery to earn a mouthful of food to hush the cries of her hungry children. There are hundreds of thousands of these cases. Opium is the ancestor of beggary. The smoker pawns his goods, disposes of his furniture and sells his house. Every resident in the interior can testify to scores of instances of well-to-do people becoming vagabonds and outcasts from society. "There are whole bands of suppliants who bend the knee and beg for the opium ashes from the pipes of former acquaintances." The last home of the sot before he enters his coffin, is the watchman's box at the street gate, and his undertaker, the constable, collects no fees. The young man lying on the curb stone with a piece of matting over his lifeless body was once a happy boy in a comfortable home!

THE PERNICIOUSNESS OF THE VICE.

The physical effects are equally as disastrous as the financial. Among people past middle age, in easy circumstances, with vigorous constitutions, good food and comfortable surroundings, the drug may be used for some time without any apparent deleterious effects. This class is only a small percentage of the whole. Accustomed to the large audiences in the street chapel, I can, almost without fail, from the pulpit point out the opium smokers, and they are not selected because of their ruddy countenances and stalwart frames, but from the glazed eyes, the dilated pupils, the pale cheek, the sunken chest, the stooped shoulders, the swarthy complexion, the stained thumb, the emaciated form, the spiritless expression and the haggard appearance. The Chinese sum up the evils attending the use of the drug in three words: "No flesh, no strength, no money."

An authority says: "The average weight of opium-smokers falls considerably—about twenty pounds—below the standard for the ordinary healthy man of the same height." Dr. J. Johnston, when in charge of the General Hospital at Shanghai, said: "Daily observation in hospital and dispensary practice during the past eight years, as well as attentive scrutiny of the health of opium smokers in all classes of society, abundantly proves to my mind the deleterious influence of opium smoking

on the health, and the serious effect it has on longevity."

The writer's observation is that with young men it is attended with rapid loss of strength, and followed by premature death. The Chinese proverb says: "The opium smoker lives eighty per cent of his natural life;" i.e., the man who would be expected to reach sixty, dies at forty-eight. In the medical profession opium is said to be considered one of the six principal drugs, but if the system is previously saturated with it, the ordinary dose (or even doubled) has no effect in various diseases like dysentery. As a general rule three or four generations will end an opium-smoking family. Testimony was given before the opium-commission that the families of the former "Hong Merchants" at Canton, who controlled the foreign trade, had with one or two exceptions been swept off by smoking. Opium is an engine which pulls a train of evils. Among these evils may be mentioned the use of the hypodermic, for as morphia is not subject to the heavy duty imposed on opium it is cheaper, and the forearm, a mass of ulcers in July, tells of the constant use in cold weather. Another of the evils is a fearful increase, as the Chinese testify, in the number of suicides. Taking life by one's own hand has been prevalent for ages, and in the case of defeated Generals and chaste widows, the ethical books of China commend the custom; but now the ease with which the narcotic may be obtained, especially in cases of anger, and the knowledge that death is free from pain, makes suicide a gigantic evil in this land.

Many deleterious effects to the physical constitution, some not suitable to be named in print—might be mentioned, but I will content myself with presenting one which the

DOCTORS CALL "CONSTIPATION."

It is necessary to call attention to this in order to combat the views of the defenders of the habit. We ask what in western lands is the effect of opium on the system? For what class of diseases is it generally used? The Chinese normally are troubled along this line but opium aggravates the evil many fold. The writer, for the last two or three years, has enquired of every opium smoker he conversed with as to his bodily functions. Very occasionally, daily; often once in two days; commonly, from three to five days; not infrequently, once a week; every ten days is mentioned and twice a month is not unheard of; while we have a neighbour who, it is said, keeps a monthly record. Another case of forty days came under our observation, but he died. We would like to put upon the witness stand divers English physicians who advance the theory that opium is anti-malarial in its tendencies; that the peasants are by the drug fortified against chills and fever, that there is something in the mode of life and climatic surroundings which causes the effects of the opium habit in China to be different from those which are known to Europe; and that a people who have so little to make life joyful should not be denied this one luxury? I ask, *please give your medical opinion on this one point?* If chronic constipation is dangerous to the health of Europeans, why should it be helpful to Asiatics? This is the prime cause of the dark, sallow complexion of the opium smoker, the source of his headaches and his "manifold infirmities." We drive a bullet into this "bull's-eye" and ask the medical advisers of opium to the Chinese to extract it.

WOMEN AND OPIUM.

A quarter of a century ago there were comparatively few women who smoked opium; at this time hundreds of thousands are swept along by this devastating flood. It is natural to suppose that this would be the case, for at home

it is reputed that women yield more readily to the opium habit than those of the sterner sex. When we think of the many aches and pains to which the flesh is heir, and when fathers, husbands, and sons have a reputed antidote for pain, it is not surprising that they gladly welcome the pipe. The estate of Chinese women is bad enough, but with the warp of heathenism and the woof of opium the condition is fearfully sad.

The opium-smoking mother! Wandering about the house during the forenoon, the cheek with a deathly pallor, the hands unwashed, the clothing filthy, the house in disorder, the husband wretched, the children "street Arabs," the family sinks to the lowest level of humanity. Let the artist paint in brilliant colours

"THE BENEFITS OF OPIUM TO THE WOMEN OF CHINA."

OLD COUNTRY AND NEW VICE.

The "heathen Chinese" is none too good to begin with, but when he becomes addicted to the Indian drug he seems to lose many of those characteristics which recommend him to the respect and esteem of the European. My own experience is that lying prevails to an unusual degree among this class. The habit is often attended with the entire loss of shamefacedness and certainly the trend is downward.

The question is often asked, what do the Chinese think of opium? On the continent if a man has wine daily on his table he defends the habit. If a Kentuckian makes Bourbon whiskey, he argues that the distillery is legalised. Not so the Chinese with their favourite pipe. They consider the use of opium as a vice and a vice of the deepest die. Even were the Protestant missionary disposed to baptise moderate smokers, its use is so generally condemned, that it would be considered by the heathen a disgrace to the church to have men of this class within the fold. Their only defence is: "You, a teacher from the West, exhort men to be virtuous and you sell poison to our people." They say: "Your words are very plausible but we look at your actions. You bring Christianity and opium; are we to judge the one by the direful effects of the other?"

Opium is making havoc in this old land. It has lulled the conscience of the country to sleep. As the craving increases, ideas of principle diminish. The craving has a tremendous grip and opium becomes the one thing needful for life. Men, and they are not a few, become fends, and mortgage their wives and sell their daughters for a roll of silver so that they may pass a few happy hours in the opium den.

THE UNALTERED HOSTILITY

of the Chinese Government, up to the last few years, is a matter of history. In the "Angell Convention" the Chinese approved "the Exclusion Act" for the sole reason that the "Anti-opium Clause" was inserted in the American treaty. China would probably gladly permit the Yunnan Railway to be extended, the one line to Hankow and the other to Chungking, were England willing to forbid her people engaging in the traffic. Whereas not one in twenty of the British merchants sells opium, why should the treaty assiduously guard the rights of the wealthy few to the detriment of the monied interests of the great majority of noble Englishmen? It is said that now in India the revenue from opium is only five per cent of the whole, so in that country it ceases to be a factor worthy of consideration.

The ability of the Government "to cope with so formidable an adversary" has been questioned: It must be remembered that though the Chinese may be too feeble to meet foreign nations on the field of conflict, yet they are perfectly competent to manage their own people. "At great epochs in the history of this land, great men have ap-

peared upon the scene and accomplished great things. Were the nation freed from its treaty fetters, might not some distinguished mandarin rise equal to the occasion? Can we with certainty say, Nay? To theorise on the question is useless, as arguments may be presented on both sides. The right thing to do is to give China a chance.

To those who consider that agitation is useless and who despair of any change in the attitude of the British Government towards the growth and exportation of Indian opium, I would cite one instance from the history of times just previous to our own, and ask them to consider the condition of

THE SLAVE TRADE

during the whole of the 18th century and its complete suppression about the middle of the 19th.

The first Englishman to engage in this traffic was Sir John Hawkins, who was M.P. for Plymouth in 1572, and the next year was made treasurer and comptroller of the navy.

The *Encyclopædia Britannica* says: "The African Company, however, continued to exist and obtained from time to time large parliamentary grants. By the treaty of Utrecht, the *asiento* or contract for supplying the Spanish colonies with 4,800 negroes annually, which had previously passed from the Dutch to the French, was transferred to Great Britain; an English company was to enjoy the monopoly for a period of thirty years from 1st May, 1713. . . . Between 1680 and 1700 about 140,000 were exported by the African Company. Between 1700 and 1786 as many as 610,000 were transported to Jamaica alone. . . . Bryan Edwards estimated the total import into all the British Colonies of America and the West Indies from 1680 to 1786 as 2,130,000, being an annual average of 20,935. . . . The British slave trade reached its utmost extension shortly before the war of American Independence. It was then carried on principally from Liverpool, but also from London, Bristol, and Lancaster. The entire number of slave ships sailing from these ports was 192, and in them space was provided for the transport of 47,146 negroes."

During the year 1790 it is estimated that 38,000 slaves were exported from the continent of Africa by British traders. At this time the English had 14 factories on the coast of Africa where slaves captured in the interior were collected and kept "in stock" till the arrival of a slaver. Badinel states that the number exported from the coast in 1798 was not less than 100,000 of whom 55,000 were taken by the English. Thus just one century ago more than half the slave trade was in the hands of the British, and "British interests" were assiduously guarded by the home government.

This iniquitous traffic reached its height at that time and soon began to decline. When public opinion, under the leadership of Wilberforce and Macaulay had been thoroughly aroused to its injustice and inhumanity, a very general desire was awakened in the English mind to repair the injuries that had been inflicted on that ill-fated continent.

It was a herculean task when the British undertook to suppress the slave trade. There were forty or fifty barracoons, along 3,000 miles of coast, where slaves were collected. The fastest ships were employed as slavers and were sometimes detained only a night "to take in cargo," so, as the number of places occupied by the slave trade exceeded the number of cruisers, the frequent escape of the slavers was inevitable. Yet such was the diligence and activity of the officers of the squadron—amidst terrible sufferings on this deadly malarial coast—that during a score of years one by one the strongholds were abandoned, till the "hunting and stealing of human beings to

make them slaves" ceased on land and sea. The suppression of the slave trade is the glory of England during the present century. Is it too much to hope that with the dawn of the 20th century British cruisers will sweep the China seas in search of opium-slavers who poison their victims on these unhappy shores?

HAMPDEN C. DU BOSE,
President Anti-Opium League in China.

CYCLING ROUND THE WORLD.

(Concluded from last week.)

Soon after passing the city of Kueichou, we approached the famous Windbox gorge. The sun had slipped away behind the hills, but the moon shone with a good grace. The cockle-shell of a punt in which we lay assumed a nervous giddiness, and began spinning like a top. We floated in a whirlpool, and we whirled like a bark demented. Frothy, gurgling eddies broke all around. The oarsmen dashed the blades ragingly, furiously, and with much splashing into the boiling water. We sat holding on the unused rowlocks. Tired of the game, the whirlpool shot the boat away. We reached a mad torrent. With a dull roar it took us in its arms and raced. Five hundred yards ahead loomed the slaty sides of a gaunt precipice. In front of it was a massive boulder, where the water hissed and seethed, and was thrown into snowy spray. We drove straight at this jutting dispenser of death. Were we to be splintered on its ragged fringe? Like an arrow we flew. Another fifteen seconds and our doom was sealed. But the rush of the tumultuous stream was cleft. Just as we reached the rock one arm seized the boat, and with a frightful, twisted, uncanny motion, that caused one to sit tight and forget to breathe, shot us far into smoother water. We were safe, and gliding with silent swiftness down the gorge. The rocks were perpendicular, and showed dark crevices. One side was wrapt in Cimmerian blackness. The other was illumined by the thin blue rays of the moon. The bars were still; not a night bird shrieked; even the ripples forgot to lap. It was very unearthly, eerie. It must be like that when Charon takes his cargo of souls across the Styx.

Shooting the rapids, however, had nothing of the mysterious about it. Every now and then we had five minutes of undiluted excitement. The rocks ran into the river bed, and with a horrid noise, the Yangtze blustered angrily, with much swearing and spluttering, into a narrower course. Then a stubborn rock from the other bank would press forward. And when the rush of the two currents met there was a tremendous uproar. Shipping water, thumped, bumped, banged about, our tiny vessel braved the flood time and again. The worst rapid was one called the Yeh-tan. Far in front we saw a big junk having a fight with the waves. It was swinging and groaning in a fearful manner. With six tow-lines quite three hundred men were on the bank, tugging with all their strength, and yelling with all their lungs. But all such noise was soon swallowed up in the thunderous bellowing of wild wave tumbling in the wake of wilder wave—a pandemonium of mighty, crashing water. Our Chinese crew screeched like madmen. The boat fell with a thud into the trough of the waves and shuddered. The spray flew high as in a gale. We held on with iron grip.

At night we generally slipped into some lazy back-water, threw the painter round a rock and hove to. A fire was kindled and the food was cooked, and we lolled about and ate in wild-man style, attacking anything that happened to be ready, and not following the prescribed methods. Then when the mat awnings were pulled out and the

weary Chinese boatmen crouched in a corner and went to sleep, it was delightful to climb some rocky eminence and, smoking a fragrant cheroot, enjoy the great moonlit silence, to listen to the ripple of the eddies on the mighty river, to watch the flickering lights in a down-stream village, to see the giant shadows playing among the mountains. On such nights—though far away on a river bank in unknown China—the mind of the peaceful man wanders, and in the blue fumes of his cigar he sees the pictures of other nights in other lands, and when the moon had shone at its full—of little dinners on little balconies, and the merry laugh of the fair *Parisiennes* in the Champs Elysées below, of lying with poetic musings on a yacht's deck while she floated through the placid waters that border Argyll, of sitting on the walls of Jerusalem and forgetting even to smoke—mundane epicurean though you be—in contemplating the flood of moonlight on the Mount of Olives, and the black shadows in the Garden of Gethsemane; and the mind will trip off to merry nights, with philosophy between the quaffs of lager beer, and to more quiet evenings, say at Fluden, with the soft b som of Lake Lucerne heaving below, and the eternal snows of the Swiss hills towering above, and the dinner has been nicely served and the coffee good, and the chartrouse—green chartrouse—excellent, and one's companion is pretty and soft-voiced—what pagans some of us are!—and all the world seems made for one's own particular delight; yea and one may think of still other moon-caressed evenings, of long sleigh rides through the forests of Pennsylvania and the bells of the horses jangling among the pines; of nights in the mad whirl of Cairo in season, of strolls by the banks of the Bosphorus; and still again, of nights when the tired journalist escaped from the flood of Parliament's oratory and strolled home, just a little yawningly, along the deserted shade of Victoria Street—no rumble of 'busses now, no scurrying cabs, no shriek of newsboys, no rumbling day-long din, nothing but stillness and the moonlight, so that even Victoria Street is beautiful. Yes, a cyclist lying on the banks of a Chinese river may be pardoned his thoughts when all is so still, and the moon so bright. For the charm of travel is the joy of sweet remembrings.

Just five days from Chungkingfu we reached Ichang. Lying in mid-stream was a tight, white, little British gun-boat, the *Esk*, and on shore, over a fine balcony and European residence, floated the Union Jack. It was the Consulate. We were on the shore when a voice hailed us from the city wall: "Welcome to Ichang, gentlemen; glad to see you well." And when we climbed up there was a grip from a fine old, sturdy John Bull of a man, Mr. Lovatt, the harbour master, full of good saws, who liked to talk to us young fellows about what took place in the pre-historic early forties. And as we followed his guidance, we saw, for the first time since leaving Burma, ladies in English costume: they were three missionary damsels from New Zealand, and they were enjoying an afternoon game of tennis. And then we met Mr. Holland, the Consul, who regards a consul's life in China as an ideal existence; and Captain Parr, the Commissioner of Customs, a warm-hearted Irishman, who can talk four hours at a stretch about the opium trade, and tell you good stories about the late war, when he was in command of the Chinese artillery, though he had never handled a bigger gun than a rifle; and Captain Chadwick, commander of H.M.S. *Esk*, a good sailor and a good fellow. We had a pleasant two days in Ichang.

JOHN FOSTER FRASER.

S. EDWARD LUNN.

FRANCIS H. LOWE.

MR. FRASER'S SOLITARY RIDE THROUGH HUPEH

AN ANTI-FOREIGN REGION.

SIXTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

Shasi (Hupeh Province of China).

At Ichang the inner rim of Lowe's tire snapped while undergoing repairs. Lowe decided to take steamer down to Hankow, where fresh tires were waiting. Lunn did not feel in good health, and he made up his mind to also travel by steamer to Hankow. It therefore remained for me (writes Mr. Fraser) to do the journey across Hupeh alone. Nobody knew anything about the route, but as the weather was beautifully fine I apprehended little difficulty, though for weeks all the Europeans we met had told harrowing tales of the way the Hupeh Chinese maltreat foreigners whenever they have a chance.

The British Consul, Mr. Holland, and the Commissioner of Customs, Capt. Parr, walked with me for a mile out of the town, and then, after the hand-shakes, I jumped upon my machine and spun off. There was just a narrow path running on the banks, dividing the rice fields. Far on the right was the shimmering breast of the Yangtze river. Dozens of square-sailed junks were scudding before the breeze, and one could hear the melodious song of the boatmen as they swung their oars. On the riverside rose a graceful pagoda, and along the way were massive and quaintly carved memorial arches. It was a charming morning. The Chinese were friendly; they smiled and laughed as I rode by.

I pulled up at a village called Shin-chiatien and searched for something to eat. A crowd came round and poured forth a torrent of questions—where I came from, where I was going to, what was the name of my honourable country, and how many sons had I? A dispute arose on the way a bicycle was ridden. I showed them, and then invited a hulking fellow to have a try. Certainly, nothing was easier! With trouble he got astride the saddle, and when a push was given down he flopped like a bag of flour. The Chinese possess a sense of the ridiculous, and the tumble of their mate placed me on good terms with them. Asking for food, I was served with a basin of cold, chopped-up, and gritty turnip-tops, a basin of leeks soaked in vinegar, and a basin of rice.

On this vegetarian diet I started for the afternoon spin. The path was broken, and frequently I had to walk. Once I lost the way, but a country woman, hobbling slowly on her clubbed, stunted feet, came with me till I reached the right track. Then I dipped into a valley where the path ran in the shadow of a shelf of rock, bringing me, however, to a rough piece of climbing. It was blazingly hot; there was no cloud in the sky, and I got a head-ach.

Down again on the level I had a little riding, and then a walk of about three miles. There was an uncertain-minded stream wandering all over the plain, and eleven times within two miles I crossed it. But it was pleasant when the sun dipped, and the horizon was all agleam with daggers of crimson flame, promising a fine morrow.

The shades were gathering when I met a man and asked him how far it was to Hunglungshih. "You've passed it, two li," he said. So there was nothing to do but go back. Hunglungshih consists of one house, two pigs-sties, and a hen roost. It was quite dark when I entered the house. The women scurried away with screams, but I intimated to a lethargic old man squatting in a corner that I wanted to sleep. He took no notice. I lit a candle and searched round. It was a black, dirty hole. But I found an inner room, where six coolies were lying on three rush beds. And these six Celestials crowded round

me in the gloom. They were an unclean six, but they were cheery and garrulous, and offered me a *pooken*—a foul, vile, odoured quilt—to sleep under, but I thanked them and preferred to sleep in my clothes. Another basin of rice, another basin of gritty turnip-tops; and another basin of leeks, was my dinner. Then I made a pillow of my coat, stuck my revolver under it for easy access, wrapped a piece of oil-cloth round me, and went to rest.

The trickle of a stream of water on my bed woke me with a start. It was raining in torrents; the wind moaned and howled and roared in tufts. I tried to dodge the cataract pouring in from the roof, but when I started to move my bed the whole thing fell to pieces. So I groped round for a dry corner, and when I discovered it, settled down and smoked and dozed the night through.

And the morning brought a leaden sky and the rain swishing down in sheets, and all the country looked wretched. The damp made me shiver, and when I requested food, it was gritty turnip-tops and half-cooked rice again. Some tea was given me, but it had an oily flavour, and I preferred drinking hot water alone. I wanted eggs. But rack my brains as I might, I couldn't remember what the Chinese for egg was. I drew an egg on a piece of paper. The folk were dense. Then I dragged a man outside, pointed to a bedraggled cock-rel, and then to my drawing, and said I wanted four. Everybody roared at the idea of a barbarian wanting four cockerels. Or perhaps the mirth was at my ignorance in imagining cockerels laid eggs. "You blithering idiots," I exclaimed in English, "don't you understand it's eggs I want, e double g, s—eggs!" They saw I was angry and the merriment ceased. Suddenly a rascal of a boy, who had been peering round a door and making faces, discovered what I really needed, and within a couple of minutes the eggs were produced. The entire household gathered round me as I ate, the old shaggy-bearded father, the rheum-eyed mother, two slatternly daughters (both suckling infants), and two drowsy-featured sons, who stuck their dirty faces close to mine and watched every mouthful I took as though there was some trick and they wanted to see how it was done.

T'st-y with this horrid family was repellent. I preferred toiling through slush and rain and getting wet through. So I proceeded. The downpour never ceased the whole of the day, nor the next day, nor, indeed, the day after that. I was soon soaked to the skin, and for three days and nights I never removed my damp clothes. Lifting my bicycle up a clayey bank, the treadle caught my knickerbockers at the knee, and ripped a big piece out. I knocked the heel off one shoe and broke the buckle of the other. Plodding over greasy mire the leather lost its substance; it became as soft as cloth; the heels got away, and I was walking almost bare-footed. Further, I had two nasty tumbles, which covered me with mud as well as caused a sprain. There were hints of rheumatism in my joints. Altogether, there was nothing gleeful about the journey. He would be a man with a double dose of Mark Tapleyism who could have found humour in it.

My way led over gently undulating clayey ground. The wide shallow hollows were flooded, and the crests of the land, thinly studded with clumps of pine, rose through the dull haze like hundreds of islands. The path was twelve inches wide. I was full of regrets at the thought that I could not wheel. In fine weather it would have been magnificent. But now the tires only gathered mud and clogged the chain. It was very slippery, and progress was better by keeping to the grass and wind-

ing among the brushwood. It was a watery wilderness.

All one morning the only people I saw were half-a-dozen boys clad in fibrous coats, and holding enormous umbrellas, perched on the backs of buffaloes to prevent them roaming. A few slovenly houses, sinking in the mud, comprised the village of Panmochi, and here I halted for ten minutes and drank tea. Then, pushing forward, I got on swampy ground. I wallowed in the slush over the shoe tops, and landed somehow in a rice field where the water was up to my knees. Some natives signalled to me and I reached the side, where the bank rose four feet, and the top was not above eight or nine inches wide. I told the Chinese the village I wanted to reach and they led the way. Carrying the bicycle, which made me lop-sided, I walked that tight-rope bank for hours. The first hut that came into view I entered and asked for food. There was a woman and her son, aged about six. The woman was in a fright. Trembling, she looked at me as at some fiend that had risen from another world. She backed against the wall, for there was no escape save through the door where I was standing. I smiled, tried to reassure her, and asked for rice. Then I gave a few cash to the little fellow. Humanity was perhaps suggested in this act, for the woman got me a bowl of rice, put it on the table, and edged back again. She couldn't understand. She never removed her eyes from me, and when I had finished eating and asked for water, she just put the basin on the edge of the table and shrank. She was relieved when I took my departure.

The same afternoon I encountered a riotous torrent. A path was on the other side, but I did not know whether, after the heavy rains, it was capable of being forded. I sat down and waited till two men came along and bargained with them to see me over. One carried the bicycle—the water only up to his waist—and the other carried me, pick-a-back. Twelve stone seven was evidently too heavy a lump for the second man, and when in mid-stream he staggered and we both fell. I dropped on my feet, and then catching the man by his queue got him in an upright position. My subsequent speed over the marshy ground was not more than two miles an hour. Just at dusk I reached Kuanyinchiao, having taken the whole day to journey some eighteen miles.

My coming was expected in the little town. There was a big crowd to meet me, hallooing and yelping. I was soon in the centre of an excited mob. I asked for an inn, but instead of being shown to one, the people commenced hustling and calling me "foreign devil." I saw they were not malicious; they were only unpleasantly rowdy. When one man caught my hind wheel and pulled the bicycle back I turned sharply round and struck him under the chin. Then I drove my machine right into the crowd, and this made them give way. But no one would tell me where there was an inn. As I went along the street an old man standing at a shop door gave me a *kowtow*. I returned the greeting and went up. He asked me to sit down and then he brought tea. Meanwhile there was a tremendous throng, shouting and gesticulating, and behaving as only a Chinese crowd can do. I wanted to be on friendly terms. So, taking off my hat, I put my hand to the back of my head, and, assuming an air of astonishment, pretended I had lost my queue. In mock anger I caught hold of the nearest man, and said he must give me his queue as some one had stolen mine. At this a wave of laughter spread over the mob, and any danger of personal injury passed away. I soon found an inn. That night I held quite a levee. I was presented with eighteen cups of tea, and then, as a memento, one of the visitors stole my candle.

Fearing that the people of Kuanyinchiao might take it into their heads to speed the

parting guest with a shower of stones, next morning I slipped into a lane at the rear of the inn, got beyond the town, and was cycling over the sloppy grass before my departure was discovered. A howl rose when my escape became known, and the entire population of men and boys made chase. But I out-distanced them. Then I saw a gang of a dozen men cutting across the fields to intercept me. They were all carrying hoes and long, spoon-like shovels, which they waved threateningly, and they were screaming for me to stop. My valour took the form of pedalling as hard as I was able, though every instant I expected a tumble, for my back wheel was skidding and slithering in the most uncomfortable manner.

The Chinese reached the path before I could get by, and they stood in a row. I slipped off the machine, took my revolver out of its case and carried it in my jacket pocket. The men seized the bicycle but did not molest me. I said nothing till they tried to undo the straps of my baggage. Then I pushed among them and drew the revolver. They were surly brutes, with low foreheads, cunning eyes, and animal mouths. I showed that if they came near me I would most certainly fire. But they did not know what a revolver was. They said they wanted a foreign bottle—glass bottles being rare and valued in China—and they expected I was carrying a few dozen about with me. So I told them there were none, and to cause diversion I started spinning round the back wheel of my machine. They were like children, and at once they were interested. They wanted to ride, but I wouldn't allow them to attempt. I would give them a display. They moved aside to allow me to mount. I did so, and the next two miles through that mud was covered at racing speed.

The track led among marshy, clayey land again. At every step one's feet were as if glued to the ground, and it required a tug to get free again. There was doubt whether I was really on the right road, but I fell in with three tramping Celestials who were quite amiable, and for small considerations carried my bicycle long distances. Once we crossed a river in a ferry boat, and later on we waded the same river. Beyond a weedy, straggling town I saw the masts of ships, and a great joy came into my heart, for I realised I was nearing the banks of the Yangtze-kiang. The town was Tungshih, with a population of boatmen, notorious, desperate characters, who recognise no law, and who regard the hunting of a foreigner as quite fair sport, and in much the same spirit as our own gentlemen in England hound a fox.

Between here and Shasi—Shasi, the terror of the Yangtze, as it is called among Europeans in China—I anticipated a rough time. It was my original intention to make a *détour* and avoid the place, but I was tired and very hungry, and so I went into Tungshih. As I walked through the puddles down the main street, each shop poured out its full share of rabble, and in the mad dash after me, not a few people were thrown to the ground. One man, who kept dancing along by my side in an awkward pair of Chinese mud boots, fell ignominiously in a pool of filth. I pointed to him and laughed as he shook loose some of the dripping dirt, and then everybody else laughed. I assumed a happy-go-lucky manner, though that was not my condition of mind. At the first eating-house I came to I called for tea and rice, and pickled fish—I got no meat between Ichang and Shasi. There were about three hundred people pressing round. But there was not the slightest sign of animosity. It was better than I expected. Yet as soon as I rose to proceed on my way excitement broke loose, very tumultuous, but not threatening. I was walking and pushing the machine. There were calls for me to ride. That was impossible because of the shocking road. "Ride

ride!" was the continuous yell. Then a lump of mud whizzed past me. I quickened my pace and my attendants quickened theirs. There was a ferry to be crossed, and as I almost fell into the boat, a shower of mire followed me.

Now a Celestial throws the same way as a woman in England throws—not very accurately. And I was exceedingly pleased that one piece of mud struck a well-dressed, minor, fifth-ranked, glass-buttoned mandarin, who was also in the ferry boat. His beautiful silk jacket was frightfully bespattered, so he stood up and swore. I presume, anyway, that he swore. It was the natural thing for a man to do under the circumstances. I would have done so myself had my knowledge of Chinese been more extensive.

And now I was on the banks of the Yangtze. All the land was level, and flooded, and dull, and dreary, and the rain fell unceasingly. The mighty Chinese river, broad and brown, was unbeautiful. A cold, bleak wind was souging. There was not a soul to be seen on the water side. But I could ride my Rover, and all the afternoon I pedalled eastwards. It was cold and miserable. And I was lonely, wheeling on a sad, dripping Sunday in late November through the dread region of Central China.

It was quite dark when I got to Chiang-tou—a thick, murky darkness that wrapped the town in Cimmerian shade. Not a soul was about as I literally floundered down the narrow causeway. Then I came to hovels throwing forth dim, flickering lights and revealing foul-featured beings at their evening meal. The first man I met I requested to show me an inn. He stared at me curiously, and then motioning, but saying no word, led me from passage to passage, and at last stopped in front of what looked a low-class eating-house. There were some coolies gobbling their rice, and to them I signified I was tired and wanted to lie down. The landlord, a limping, shaggy-bearded fellow, showed me a room where the coolies slept and said I could stay. However, if I preferred, there was a loft over the kitchen which I could have to myself. I choose the loft, though the fumes from the cooking below were sickening. There was no bed, and I spread my sheet of waterproof on the floor. Then I induced the landlord to bring me a charcoal fire, and stripping off my wet clothes, got some warmth. After eating rice, I was lying shivering, when a well-dressed old man, accompanied by his son, pushed their way up my ladder. They were chatty and friendly, and told me they belonged to Hankow. Seeing I was cold, they urged me to hire a *pookai*, but I preferred the cold to the horrible unclean things served out in Chinese inns. Then they offered to lend me bedding of their own. Very glad I was to accept a large, clean *pookai* and a pillow, and so secure a decent night's rest.

I intended to escape from Chiang-tou before daybreak. Had I done so, however, I should have gone breakfastless. So I waited to get food, and risked what might happen in the streets. I knew that a British Consul had been stoned in this place, and therefore had some idea what would happen to an unofficial and solitary cyclist. I couldn't ride along the pavement, but as I walked quickly a cry of "foreign devil!" was raised. Happily, I recognised the man who shouted, and at once I went up and addressed him very outspokenly in English. He was a cringing, hulk of a fellow, of the "please, Sir, it wasn't me, Sir" kind. I let the word "*yamen*" drop once or twice into my speech. An elderly Chinese rushed up, apologised for the rudeness, and soundly rated the offender. Then he accompanied me beyond the confines of the town. But he had to stop every two minutes to order back the assembling crowds. And what struck me as singular was that everybody turned back when told,

Once more in the open country I made for the huge dyke, one hundred and twenty feet wide, that flanks the Yangtze. It guards the low-lying land from flood when the river rises in summer. It had a hard, sandy surface, was not sloppy, and the path accordingly afforded a really good cycling track, indeed, the best I had experienced in China. Reaching a big gap, it was necessary to make a circuit to escape the swamps. I came across an inner bank, and on this was built a long succession of villages. Here the people were distinctly disagreeable. They chased me with sticks, pelted me with mud, and set their dogs at me. For several hours I did nothing but run the gauntlet. In scrambling up a bank I fell into a rice field, so that one side of me was nothing but thick mud. This, with my torn clothes and my shapeless shoes, must have given me a disreputable appearance—not at all the kind of person who would have met with respect from constables in any of the London parks. Finding I was leaving the Yangtze, I had to strike once more across the fields, for I was anxious to avoid the city of Kinchafu, where a Manchu garrison is stationed, and where the authorities encourage the soldiery to damage invading foreigners. Then the rest of the day I journeyed on the foreshore of the river, a slippery, broken way, where I had to dismount every hundred yards or so and cross a brook.

And what a delight it was when through the rainy mist I spied the shadowy shape of a pagoda, indicating Shasi, and knew that there hospitable Europeans were awaiting my coming.

Suddenly I came across a bamboo plantation. And just at this spot was a long continued landslip, and the high bank had tumbled into the river. There was no path. Thrice I attempted to force a passage. But it was useless. I went back, and, finding a rush hut, the residence of the cane-cutters, entered and offered a piece of silver to the dozen men who were lying about if they would show me the way to Shasi. They said go by the bank. I told them the bank was impassable. I pleaded with them to find me a passage. I tried to bribe them to threaten them with chastisement, flogging, b-heading, and what not. Yet not one inch would they budge. Again I endeavoured to force a passage through the bamboos. Again was the attempt futile. I sat down by the river and waited a small boat which came floating on the current. This I hailed, got on board, and in ten minutes had passed a mile of crumbled bank.

It was now growing dark; getting on my machine, I wheeled swiftly towards Shasi, approaching it however, with mingled feelings, knowing that the missionary houses were periodically wrecked, and that the British Consul had to live on board a junk because it was impossible to secure a residence. The place was only opened as a treaty port at the end of 1896, and hardly a foreigner had ever entered the town without being assaulted. But I had succeeded in the journey up to now, and I believed my lucky star would see me through, all right. And hardly had I begun to harbour such thoughts when a gang of boatmen scraped mud from the ground and pitched it at me. The people from the huts joined them, and within five minutes I had a hundred people in full chase. It was a race, and I won. At the edge of the town, and just when black night had closed over the world, I dismounted. Good fortune was mine. The first person I addressed was an old fellow, rather drunk, who undertook to lead me to the *Shui-wan-se*. The downpour of rain had cleared the streets, and during the two-mile walk, never more than half-a-dozen folks were in my wake, and they were simply curious. Thus I got through Shasi, the most anti-foreign town on the banks of the Yangtze.

"There is the Custom house," grunted my guide.

"Anybody about who speaks English?" I bawled.

A well-lighted junk on the water threw open its door, two figures ran toward me, and I was welcomed by Mr. J. Neumann, the Commissioner of Customs, and Mr. W. J. Clennell, the British Consul. Off went my dirty, soaking clothes, into a hot bath I plunged, and then, into borrowed clothes I dived, and half-an-hour later there was dinner. And only the man who has lived on half-boiled rice and cold gritty turnip-tops for a week can really sing the delights of a good English dinner.

JOHN FOSTER FRASER.

AN ENGLISH JOURNALIST EXPELLED FROM SIAM.

A decree was issued by the Government of Siam on the 11th of March requiring Mr. J. J. Lillie, editor and proprietor of the *Siam Free Press*, to leave the country within seven days from that date, and, in default of his doing so, ordering his expulsion. Acting under instructions from the Home Government, the British Minister has withdrawn British protection from Mr. Lillie, and the course adopted by the Siamese Government is said to have received the approval of the British Government in advance, and might have been taken some time ago.

Mr. Lillie in his writings has been violently anti-Siamese, not only in his own paper, but in telegrams and correspondence dispatched to journals elsewhere. His expulsion was finally determined upon, it would appear, from the statements of the other local papers, in consequence of his tendering a telegram for transmission stating that Siam had sent an armed force to suppress a rebellion in Battambang. The statement, it is alleged, is untrue, and was calculated to cause complications with France, the treaty with that Power prohibiting the maintenance of any armed force by Siam in Battambang.

Mr. Lillie will no doubt contest the legality of his expulsion and the withdrawal from him of British protection.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

THE SCARCITY OF RICE IN KUANGTUNG.

ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS.

The scarcity of rice in Kuangtung province and the high prices prevailing have in several districts led to riots. In Shek-loong the rice hongts were raided by the populace just when there happened to be a full stock on hand, and property amounting in all to a value of about \$80,000 was stolen or destroyed. In Sanhui also the rice hongts were raided and four men were killed. In other places similar riots have taken place. At Canton the charitable institutions are selling rice to the poorer classes at the rate of 40 catties for \$1, which is considerably below the market price. A portion of the rice so disposed of has been brought down by gunboats from Hupeh and Hunan and a portion consists of grain seized by the authorities while being illegally exported, the export of rice from China being prohibited.

Japan is purchasing a great quantity of rice at present, and the Chinese dealers have devised a means by which they can profit by the demand from that quarter. Although rice cannot be exported from China it can be shipped from one treaty port to another under bond. The rice merchants at Shanghai, we are informed, have accordingly applied for permission to ship rice to Canton, giving as their explanation of the large quantities going

forward that there is a famine in Kuangtung and that unless rice is procurable a rebellion will inevitably break out. Steamers are therefore dispatched heavily laden with rice for Canton under bond, but when they arrive in Hongkong a large portion of their cargoes is transhipped for Japan, and inferior rice, paddy, and husks, taken on board to make up the deficiency. About a fortnight ago a steamer arrived in this harbour with about 18,000 piculs of rice ostensibly for Canton and landed fully half the amount here for shipment to Japan, and since then several other steamers have done the same. The business is attended with considerable risk, for if the trick were discovered by the Customs at Canton not only would the bond be estreated, but both the cargo and steamer would be liable to confiscation.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 23rd March.

Before SIR NICHOLAS HANNEN,
Chief Justice.

R. v. HARVEY.

Arthur Edward Harvey, a young man, was indicted for unlawfully obtaining goods by means of false pretences from Li Liang-sheng a Chinese shopkeeper in Nanking Road on the 21st ultimo.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, prosecuted and the jury consisted of the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. Christie, W. Mesny, T. Mitchell, H. R. Kinnear, and E. G. Wilson.

The Crown Advocate having briefly opened the case, called

Li Liang-sheng the prosecutor who said he kept a general store at 152, Nanking Road. He recognised the prisoner as the man who came to his store on the 21st ultimo and ordered some goods. He selected six tins of rock fish, a box of cigars and two tins of fruit. He then signed a chit for the amount \$6.60, in the name of "J. Robinson, Cleveland House, Hongkew." Witness did not want him to sign a chit not knowing him, but prisoner said he would send the money the next day. Prisoner who was with another man then got into a ricksha and they drove away taking the goods with them. Witness being suspicious spoke to a foreign constable on the subject and after he had examined the chit witness went back to his shop and the matter was reported by the policeman at the Police Station. The next day prosecutor went in search of the prisoner but could not find him, and afterwards he went in search of the prisoner, in company with a foreign detective. At the Cleveland House they were told that there was no such man there. On the 23rd they found him on board a ship and he was arrested. He was perfectly certain as to the identity of the prisoner. In reply to the prisoner he recognised a tin of fish produced to him at the police station by the chop used in his shop.

By the Bench: He would not have allowed him to take the goods if he had not signed the chit.

P. C. Jespersen stated that on the day in question he was in Nanking Road on duty when he saw the prosecutor. He went up to him and spoke to him in consequence of having seen the prisoner come out of the shop with some goods. There was another foreigner with him, and they called for a ricksha and drove away. He knew the prisoner's name was Harvey and had never known him by the name of Robinson. He saw the chit with the false name and address and afterwards reported the matter to the inspector on duty at the police station. In reply to the prisoner

witness said that he knew him well they having been constables together. He did not suspect it was the other man who signed the chit because the prosecutor told him who had signed it. The reason he went into the shop and inquired about him was that he suspected he had signed the chit.

At this stage a question was handed from the jury to His Lordship in reference to the identity of the other man who was with the prisoner.

His Lordship reminded them that it was not for the prosecution to ask that inasmuch as he did not appear to have been recognised. The prisoner had only to give his name and he would be called.

A juror said that the question was asked as it had been hinted that the other man might have signed the chit and been named Robinson.

The prisoner interposed by stating that all his witnesses had left Shanghai and he could not call his friend.

Two Chinese salesmen in the employ of the prosecutor were called and deposed to the prisoner ordering the goods, taking them away and signing the chit.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the prisoner having no witness to call,

Mr. Wilkinson acting on the suggestion of His Lordship reviewed the evidence that had been submitted, and said it could be no defence that the prisoner had signed his friend's name and address.

The prisoner then addressed the Court and complained that the man who was with him was arrested and taken to Hongkew Police Station and a tin of fish taken from him but was allowed to go the next morning. This man was always to be found in the neighbourhood of Hongkew but the police had taken no steps to bring him.

His Lordship in summing up said the prisoner must know perfectly well who the man was, and whether his name was Robinson. He said he could have been found but why had he taken no steps to bring him? He had only to ask the Court to summon the man and he would be produced.

The prisoner was found guilty by the jury, without retiring. He pleaded that he had been in goal a month in solitary confinement and was quite innocent of the charge.

His Lordship said it was a great convenience to people in Shanghai to be able to go into shops, order things and take them away, but if men like the prisoner went in and signed a chit and were afterwards not to be found, then the whole community was put to grave inconvenience, and shopkeepers were also very hardly used. He should take into consideration the fact of the prisoner having been in custody a month, but the offence did not admit of a nominal sentence. He would have to go to prison for three months with hard labour.

21st March.

(SITTING IN BANKRUPTCY.)

Re BENNETZ & Co.

The Court sat, at the conclusion of a private meeting of creditors, for the public examination of Mr. Henry Claude Bennertz of 72, Rue Montauban, Shanghai.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appeared for the debtor, Mr. Browett represented the petitioning creditor, and there were also present a large number of creditors in person.

Mr. Wilkinson: May it please your Lordship: In this case the debtor is not present for his public examination. Unhappily he is unable to attend to business at all. I have had certificates at various times from Dr. Cooper to that effect and I believe one such certificate has been in the possession of the Court for some little time. Mr. Bennertz' partner, Mr. Pollak, is in Shanghai and he has been told that all books dealing with the partner-

ship must be deposited in Court. He has given what information and assistance he could to the Official Receiver and I have now to ask that the public examination of the debtor be adjourned *sine die*. We have had a first meeting of creditors.

His Lordship: Where is the certificate?

Mr. Wilkinson: I placed it on your desk, but I can undertake to have a duplicate of it.

His Lordship: Will you please do that. I saw the certificate and I was satisfied that it properly excuses his attendance.

Mr. Browett: I may draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that there has been no resolution passed adjudging the debtor a bankrupt.

His Lordship: There has not?

Mr. Browett: No. On behalf of the petitioning creditor I offer no opposition to the adjournment.

His Lordship. It appears to me it must be adjourned if no resolution has been passed.

No objection to the adjournment being offered by any of the creditors, his Lordship adjourned the examination *sine die*.

24th March.

Re ALFRED CUNNINGHAM.

The public examination of Alfred Cunningham, lately editor of the *Shanghai Daily Press*, was resumed. Mr. Ellis represented the debtor and Mr. Nelson appeared on behalf of certain creditors.

The Trustee, (Mr. A. R. Leake) continued his examination of the debtor in reference to the somewhat intricate accounts. The debtor in reply to the Trustee admitted the hypothecation of certain property for various loans. The first allocation was made in favour of Mr. Guedes, at his own request, who began to fear that they would have trouble with the *compradore* Chou, and in order to protect himself and the debtor he suggested that he should have a proper bill of sale, drawn up by a lawyer and stamped in a Consulate. This was for \$3,500. When Mr. Guedes asked him for a bill of sale he told him that Mr. Northey held a note of hand for a specific sum, but Mr. Guedes pointed out after consultation with his lawyers that the note in question was not valid and would not protect him or the debtor if Chou took proceedings against them. In reply to the Bench the witness stated that the amount of Northey's claim was \$2,500, the document being delivered at the time he retired from the partnership. Debtor in answer to the Trustee said a similar note was given to Mr. Von Möllendorff, at his own request. The last named had knowledge of the holding by Mr. Guedes of the note previously alluded to, and his note had reference to the *Shanghai Daily Press* and the new plant and machinery which had been purchased since they started the newspaper. On the 11th of July, 1896, he hypothecated certain property to Mr. Evans for Tls. 2,020. It was brought about in this way. Mr. Von Möllendorff wanted to borrow from Evans Tls. 2,000 and witness approached Mr. Evans on Möllendorff's behalf. Mr. Evans said he would lend the money at twelve per cent, provided he had some security. Mr. Von Möllendorff wanted the money and expressed his willingness to hypothecate the good-will and plant of the Chinese newspaper, *Hwa Pao*, of which he was sole owner. Witness conveyed this declaration to Mr. Evans, who declined to accept the security unless it was endorsed with the signature of himself and Mr. Von Möllendorff. This was eventually done, the value of the *Shanghai Daily Press*, good-will and plant, being in witness' opinion over and above what was required to meet the bill. He did not tell Mr. Evans there was already a bill of sale on the property because he did not think it

was necessary. Mr. Evans knew all about it. He had never represented his business to be a profitable one. He might have said to the gentlemen who were undertaking the formation of a company that the job-printing was a profitable branch and that the newspaper at a certain period was about paying its way. With regard to the French paper, when that left them there was due to them about \$1,700. This was reckoned in the job-printing. He should say that they had lost much more than seven thousand dollars. Certain private accounts might have been paid *per contra* by contracts for advertisements, printing, etc., but of this there should be a record in the books.

By Mr. Nelson—The note of hand was given at Mr. Northey's request. He was informed by Mr. Guedes that his lawyer had stated the document was not worth the paper it was written upon, but he did not say so to Mr. Evans because the document in favour of Mr. Evans was drawn up under his direction. In fact he believed it was dictated by him. It would be difficult to say who was really responsible for the loss on the French paper. He and Mr. Lemièrre were the founders but Mr. Von Möllendorff writing repeatedly to them was admitted as a kind of third partner, because at that time money was due to him. Lemièrre had admitted responsibility for half the money advanced on account of the French paper by M. Von Möllendorff. With reference to private accounts squared by advertisements, etc., he might be able to furnish an account with respect to them with the assistance of his book-keepers. Any account settled *per contra* was supposed to be entered by the book-keeper as if it was a personal drawing by him. They had had about four book-keepers and he had supervised their books as far as his knowledge of book-keeping would permit, and his duties as editor and general manager allowed the time. At an informal meeting of his creditors in 1897 Mr. Clark was asked to value the business, but witness did not give him any figures at all. Mr. Clark made the valuation by himself, having with him his own foreman and printing overseer.

By His Lordship—He simply put in the way of Mr. Clarke the means by which he could obtain the information he required.

By Mr. Nelson (continued). He did not tell him there were 500 subscribers. The partnership he held in the French paper ceased when Mr. Castilho went to Japan. There might have been a small amount due to him when Mr. Castilho left. He could not say how much money they had really lost during the course of the year, or what the monthly loss was. He had no money on deposit and no other property except that disclosed in his statement of affairs.

The Trustee asked that he might be allowed to call Mr. Evans, but some demur to the proposal being made,

His Lordship said he must adjourn for a few minutes to consider the question inasmuch as it was admitted by the Trustee that he had no more questions to ask and it did not appear that the creditors had anything else to ask.

The Trustee said he would not press the matter.

His Lordship, after retiring for a few minutes said that this was an examination in which the creditors and the trustee were entitled to examine the debtor publicly. The Trustee had no further questions to ask, and as far as he knew the creditors had none, and therefore he thought that Mr. Ellis or the debtor was entitled to ask that the examination might be closed.

Mr. Ellis thereupon asked that the debtor might be allowed to pass.

His Lordship declared the examination closed.

THE MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 22nd March.

Before Mr. CHENG, Magistrate, and
Mr. J. SCOTT, British Assessor.THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD., v.
THE GAY DAH BANK.

The hearing of this case was resumed, Mr. J. C. Hanson (Messrs. Dowdall and Hanson) appearing for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, for the defendants.

Upon resuming,

The Compradore of the National Bank produced his private books, and in reply to Mr. Wilkinson said they showed a balance in favour of the Gay Dah Bank.

Mr. Wilkinson—Have you found any interest notes signed by the Gay Dah bank, and if so will you produce them? Yes. (Notes produced and handed to the court.)

Is Fu Pau in Shanghai, and do you know where he lives? No?

Is it a fact that these interest notes have nothing to do with the National Bank? These are interest notes on money borrowed from the National Bank. Do not these notes correspond with entries in your private books? No.

Can you find any entries in the books of the foreign department of the National Bank corresponding with them? No. Every day there is a different rate of exchange.

When did you pay that interest into the bank? How much are these interest memos for? If the rate of interest for the day is say 15 per cent my memo would state it as 16 per cent, as there is a commission of about 1 per cent which goes to the compradore's department, so my memos would not agree with the foreign accounts.

I want you to trace these memos for me in the foreign books of the bank. The date of one is somewhere in the 10th moon, for Tls. 121.79. It is an amount paid by the Gay Dah bank for interest and entered in my private books.

Is the other interest memo entered in your private books? No, I only put down the total.

Mr. Wilkinson then proceeded to call the manager of the Gay Dah bank for the defence.

Do you know the compradore of the National Bank? Yes.

When was the Gay Dah bank started? In 1895. Not in 1893? No.

Have you ever had dealings with the National Bank or their compradore? Yes. With the compradore—not with the foreign department.

Did you keep a record of your dealings? Yes.

What is this (produced)? A pass book for the dealings with the compradore.

Have you in your books a record of the bank orders on which the National Bank are suing? Yes.

Do you keep a record of orders issued by the bank? Yes. If a bank order is issued to a person who does not arrange for assets to cover it, do you cash it? No. Do people who get bank orders take precautions to find out if there are assets to cover them? Yes. With regard to these particular orders. Do you remember who they were issued to? To the compradore of the National Bank.

Are you in the habit of lending money to foreign banks in Shanghai? No.

Will you take this book and describe to the magistrate what sort of a book it is? Yes. (Witness did so.)

The dates of issue and the numbers in the book are correct? Yes.

Mr. Wilkinson—The first is No. 595, dated the 12th of the 5th moon, for Tls. 5,000; next No. 668, dated the 17th of the 8th moon, and the amount Tls. 10,000; then No. 687, of the 28th of the 9th moon, for \$3,000; next No. 706, dated the 21st of the 10th moon for Tls. 5,000; one dated the

22nd of the 10th moon, No. 708, for Tls. 5,000; No. 711, of the 24th of the 10th moon, for \$6,000; No. 720, of the 2nd of the 11th moon, for Tls. 5,000; and No. 726, for Tls. 5,000, dated the 6th of the 11th moon. Are you quite certain you did not borrow these sums from the National Bank? I did not borrow from the National Bank.

When you do borrow money, the bank orders given as security state somewhere that the money is borrowed? Yes, it would be stated.

Will you point out the difference between the entries of borrowed money and money lent? Witness did so.

When money is borrowed from a foreign bank on the security of bank orders, and the money is repaid and the loan subsequently renewed, are the old orders returned as security or are new ones issued? I have never known of an old order being kept as security for a new loan.

How much is the balance owing by the National Bank compradore to the Gay Dah Bank?

Tls. 37,000 in cash, and Tls. 9,000 in borrowed bank orders.

Is that Tls. 37,000 apart from these orders? Yes.

Have you brought an action against the compradore in this Court? Yes. On the 14th of the 11th moon last year.

Did the petition mention these bank orders? Yes. What about them? I prayed the Court to get back from the compradore the balance of the account and the return of the orders.

Have you prosecuted that suit as well as you were able? Yes.

When were you sued by the National Bank? In January of this year.

Cross-examined—Who are the partners in the Gay Dah Bank?—Witness detailed their names.

What is the amount of your issue of bank orders in a year? Several hundred thousand taels.

Do you ever get loans from foreign banks? I never get loans from foreign banks except through their compradores.

What security do you give when these loans are made? I deposit bank orders similar to those in Court.

What name is that on this order, No. 595? National Bank of China.

Where was this note borrowed; at your bank or where? An assistant in the compradore's department of the National Bank came to the Gay Dah bank and borrowed it.

From whom did he get it? From me.

Was any letter or receipt given for it? No.

What was the state of the compradore's account with the Gay Dah bank when you lent him this note? There was a small credit balance to the compradore when the first note was handed to him. The book produced will show.

What is the heading of this pass-book? National Bank of China, Gay Dah bank and the compradore's name.

What was the name of the assistant to whom you gave the note? I cannot remember.

Of what use would the note have been to the compradore, except to borrow money on? It was simply for him to deposit as security, but when it was presented I could have refused payment.

The Court then adjourned until 2 p.m. on the 24th instant.

24th March.

Upon resuming, Mr. Hanson proceeded with his cross-examination of the manager of the Gay Dah Bank.

Is the statement that the Gay Dah Bank had dealings with the compradore and not with the National Bank correct?—Yes.

Then why is the account headed "National Bank"?—It is the custom for native banks to do that.

Have you not two accounts, one headed "National Bank" and the other "com-

pradore's private account?"—They are both together.

Is that the reason why the name of the National Bank appears on the counterfoil of the bank order?—Yes.

Have you ever had loans from foreign banks?—We always deal with foreign banks through the compradores.

Were the other bank orders borrowed in the same way as the first?—Yes.

Have you any order or receipt for the notes borrowed?—The compradore simply came and asked for the notes verbally.

Can you remember the name of any assistant to whom you gave the notes?—No. There may be a lot of people in the compradore's department.

Have you any entry of these notes said to have been borrowed except on the counterfoils?—No. Are all these counterfoils made out in the name of the National Bank?—Yes.

Whose writing are they in?—The accountant's.

Who puts in these notes about the money being borrowed?—They are in the accountant's writing.

Was this (indicated) put in at the same time as the entry was made?—No, it was made afterwards, as I did not know if the compradore was going to pay in assets against the note.

When you gave these notes to the compradore did you know what he was going to do with them?—No. If assets are paid in on the same day we honour the note, but if not, we put it down as borrowed.

How much did you receive from Ching Woo on the compradore's account?—Tls. 9,000 odd.

Then before you got this amount the compradore owed you Tls. 46,000?—Yes.

What was the state of the compradore's account on the 2nd of 11th moon?—He owed the Gay Dah bank over Tls. 40,000. Up to the end of the 10th moon he owed Tls. 56,000. On the 1st of the 11th moon he paid in Tls. 2,587 and on the 2nd Tls. 7,500.

Does that amount include the value of the notes the compradore had previously borrowed?—No.

Why did you lend the compradore Tls. 5,000 on the 2nd of the 11th moon when he was already owing the Gay Dah bank Tls. 45,000 in addition to the notes borrowed?—I trusted the compradore.

Was there any security on the current account?—There was a delivery order for 20,000 cases of kerosene.

Is that the same security as you referred to as having got from Ching Woo?—The compradore got the delivery order from me by saying he was going to pay.

Had the compradore previously paid in anything to cover previous notes?—Yes.

Against these notes?—No.

Did you put an advertisement in the papers on the 6th of December saying that these notes were cancelled?—Yes.

If people could not negotiate these notes, why did you advertise that they were cancelled?—Because the compradore owed us money and had taken away the delivery order.

If the compradore had not taken away the delivery order would the bank have had to pay these notes?—No.

What had the delivery order do with the advertisement?—The delivery order was treated as security for the overdraft.

Had the delivery order anything to do with these notes or not?—It had not. It was security for the overdraft on current account.

Mr. Wilkinson—When a customer of the bank asks for a note for Tls. 5,000, does he put that amount into the bank that day?—Yes.

Then is this mark put in the counterfoil to show there are assets equal to it?—No.

Is it the custom when a man asks for a bank order to ask him what he wants it for?—No.

When a man pays in assets to cover the note, do they ask where he got the money?—No.

Counsel then proceeded to go into various items in the witness' books with him.

Examination continued—Has the comprador of the National Bank told you, in the presence of witnesses, that you would have to pay this money?—Yes. Both last year and this.

Tzu Woo-lou, manager of the Tai-yuen bank, was called and examined by Mr. Wilkinson.

Is it the custom to issue bank orders before the cash to cover them is paid into the bank?—In the case of people who have current accounts it is done.

If money is not paid in to cover them, can the native banks refuse to honour them?—Yes.

Does this book of counterfoils seem to be correctly kept?—Yes.

Is it the custom for a man getting these notes to refer to the bank to see if there are assets?—If the man whose chop appears on them is well known it need not be done.

Is it a common thing for banks in Shanghai to issue these notes?—Yes.

Cross-examined—Is the Tai-yuen bank still doing business?—Yes.

Are you not one of the assistants in the Gay Dah bank?—No.

When native banks borrow money from foreign banks, what security do they give?—Bank orders.

Has the Tai-yuen bank ever borrowed money from foreign banks?—Yes.

Have you ever known of a case in which a native bank has borrowed money from a foreign bank on the security of bank orders, where they have been dishonoured?—No.

Mr. Wilkinson—Have you ever known a native bank able to borrow sums like \$2,000, \$6,000, or \$9,000?—No.

Have you ever known a \$3,000 or \$6,000 loan?—No.

The Court then adjourned until 2 p.m. on the 30th inst.

"I took all sorts of medicines and consulted doctors, but nothing did me much good. Later on I came to hear of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and after taking it a short time the disease left me and I was able to relish and digest my food. Owing to the virtues of this remedy I now keep in good health. (Signed) Elizabeth Allen."

And here is Mr. W. Nash, who says: "For fully ten years I suffered from periodic attacks of biliousness. At times a severe headache, preceded by excessive drowsiness; at other times vomiting, and retching for a whole day; at other times sleeplessness, pain in the chest, side, and stomach, coated tongue and bad breath—that was the way it acted with me. I grew very melancholy, and was not able to follow my business. I consulted doctors and used tonics, &c., but they only made me worse."

"I had constantly heard of your wonderful remedy, Mother Seigel's Syrup, but didn't believe in it. Then I read in *Wit and Wisdom* of a case like mine that the Syrup had cured; so I tried it, and the first bottle acted like magic. The pains left me the first week, I rejected my food no more, and in a month all my ills were gone. Bless Mother Seigel for ever! I say.—Yours gratefully. (Signed) W. Nash, 341, Goswell Road, E.C., London, October 2nd, 1893."

Now, where is there room enough on paper to sufficiently praise a medicine that will do what this one did for these two good friends of ours? All pain, remember, is nervous pain, and in the above case it was the foul and inflamed stomach which, by stopping digestion, starved the nerves and made them cry out. What won't cry out when it is starved? Babies will, men will, women will, nerves will.

Mother Seigel's medicine set the stomach in order and gave the nerves some food. Then what? why, quiet, comfort, strength, rest, enjoyment. "Bless Mother Seigel," indeed.

(2) 18, 25mr & lap 224

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At No. 11, Miller Road, Shanghai, on the 22nd of March, 1898, the wife of WILLIAM ALLANSON, of a son.

At Medical Mission House, Kaiyuan, via Newchwang, on the 6th of March the wife of D. CRAIGIE GRAY, M.B., C.M., Glasgow, of a daughter.

At Chefoo, on the 19th of March, the wife of J. R. HARDING, I.M. Customs Service, of a son.

DEATHS.

At 19, Miller Road, Hongkw, the infant son of ANNIE ELIZA and JOHN BURNET JACK.

At Chefoo, on the 16th of March, of scarlet fever, RUTH EDNA MILLS, aged 6½ years, the youngest and beloved daughter of Mrs. Charles R. Mills, of Tungchow.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 23rd of March, 1898, CHARLES SAW, Captain of the s.s. *Energia*, aged 38 years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Oceanian*, for Marseilles—Messrs. Bouquet, T. E. Marie, Rigollet, Grille, and Auliatre. For Port Said—Mr. Trookhatcheff. For Saigon—Messrs. Charles, and Labrude. For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Bennertz. Messrs. da Silva, Haimovitch, Crane, and C. P. Ritson.

Per str. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Honolulu—Mr. Wilmer Harris. For London—Mr. E. N. Butt. For San Francisco—Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Waples and child. For New York—Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Finch and 2 children. For Nagasaki—Mrs. Dubasoff and 3 children. Messrs. F. W. Heald, Alan Stewart, and Neil Sinclair. For Kobe—Mr., Mrs. and Miss A. P. McMullen, and Mr. P. E. Beeston.

Per str. *City of Peking*, for Hongkong—Mr. J. Callaway.

Per str. *Bayern*, for Hongkong—Miss Ransome, Messrs. F. Kammerzell, R. M. Gray, P. Sachse, I. R. Michael, C. Sackermann, F. R. Sylva, M. Oppel, and J. Jamieson. For Genoa—Mrs. Singewald, Mr. and Mrs. Vela,

Lieutenants M. N. Vakorin, and Travlinsky, Messrs. Joh. Thyen, and G. Dobberke. For London—Mrs. Macfarlane, children and servant, Mrs. Gardner and child, Mr. and Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Ballard and children, Mrs. J. W. Andrews, Mrs. McKelvie and children, Miss Jukes, Mrs. F. Stanley and child, and Mr. McLachlan.

Per str. *Kungping*, for Tientsin—Mr. Krauss.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Hankow—Mr. Lowe.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Chusan*, from London—Mr. and Mrs. De la Poer, Mrs. Etchells, Mr. and Mrs. Rettican, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, 2 children and infant, Misses Macdonald, Johansson, Lagerston, and Sjoberg, Mrs. Sprague, 2 children and infant, Messrs. C. Simpson, F. Thompson, Listers and servant, McGregor Grant, Lotz, J. Berg, and Sollick. From Brindisi—Messrs. Howie, and Gilmore. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Findlay. From Singapore—Mr. F. Nielson. From Hongkong—Baron P. de Gunzburg and servant, Messrs. W. Cumming, R. M. Gray, C. Bonin and servant, Wegener and servant, Tong Leng-seng and servant, Kuei Tuk and servant, W. Milligan, and H. Roberts, 14 Tonkinese and 18 Chinese. From Marseilles—Mr. S. Cartwright.

Per str. *Gaelic*, from San Francisco—Col. and Mrs. C. A. Hopkins, Dr. and Mrs. L. S. Wilcox, Miss E. F. Boughton, Rev. R. H. Walker, Capt. D. C. Campbell, Messrs. C. A. Pullan, and R. H. Wright.

Per str. *City of Peking*, from San Francisco, etc.—Rev. H. S. Jefferys, Messrs. O. Soaft, Henry Rider, M. Dingri, and F. Grafton.

Per str. *Menmuir*, from Sydney, etc.—Miss M. Deacon, Mrs. W. G. McArthur, Messrs. J. Dickinson, J. Hardy, H. Kelsall, Thompson, and T. Willcock.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Japan, etc.—Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. H. A. Bush, Mrs. Futaki, Mrs. B. Berger, Miss Caterina Bossi, Messrs. Narita, Werth, Dazai, Nakguna, Igai, Kusu, Yamada, Mazu, Hashimoto, and Gi Moh.

Per str. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong—Gen. and Mrs. Von Gotthberg, Mr. and Mrs. Van Oertzen, Miss Hodges, Messrs. E. Birchard, Kennelly, and Chas. J. Duval.

Per str. *Gissla*, from Trieste and Hongkong—Messrs. Weber, and D. Ludwig.

Per str. *Choysang*, from Hongkong and Canton—Mr. Quelch.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Mr. Butt.

Per str. *Changon*, from Hankow—Mr. Thomas.

Per str. *Hoihow*, from Amoy—Mr. Cowan.

Per str. *Chungking*, from Tangku—Mr. and Mrs. Tokmakoff, Rev. Fathers Meyer, and Reifmeister.

Per str. *Wuchang*, from Tongku—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Dalton.

Per str. *Lienhsing*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Waples.

Per str. *Eiang*, from Tientsin—Mr. Collins.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Miss MacCarthy, and Mr. Keylock.

Per str. *Hsinyü*, from Tientsin—Mr. C. P. Riesen. From Chefoo—Mr. Trookhatcheff.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Mr. H. Schlichting.

Per str. *Kutwo*, from Hankow—Miss Taylor, Mrs. Andrews, Messrs. Middleton, and Katz.

Per str. *El Dorado*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. B. Bagnall and child, Rev. Fathers Bermzu, Heirman, Menleman, De Bocelle, and Stragier.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Dr. and Mrs. Finch, Misses Turnbull, and Ware.

Per str. *Nyankin*, from Hankow—Dr. and Mrs. Van Schoick, Mrs. Doubasoff and family, Misses Brown, and Hash, and Mr. Gerken.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Rev. and Mrs. W. Moule, Revs. E. Janssen, and Godson.

Per str. *Hainfung*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Messrs. Siva, Eadie, Maragoni, Evansky, and Panoff.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Messrs. Browning and servant, J. Ganniele and servant, and W. H. Bonnett.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. Kremsir, and Rev. Asinelli.

Per str. *Kiangyü*, from Hankow—Messrs. Kindblad, Bahr, and Guernier.

Per str. *Sueh*, from Hankow—Master J. Watson.

Per str. *Suiwo*, from Hankow—Mr. B. Raxson.

WHAT MAKES THEM CRY?

You have a very sore finger, let us say. It may be a hurt, a boil—or, worse still, that fearfully painful thing, a felon. Oh, my! oh my! What a time you have been trying to protect that poor finger. It is all the time getting hit or knocking against something. Simply to keep it out of harm's way worries you more than doing a day's work; and you don't succeed—and wouldn't, even with a dozen policemen to help you. You are scared of a fly threatening to light on it.

That is the principle on which Mrs. Elizabeth Allen couldn't bear the least noise. She had no sore finger, but she had what was still more sensitive—a body full of sore nerves; weak, starved, unstrung nerves. So the prattle of children, the closing of a door, the momentary roar of a waggon in the street, the clatter of dishes in the kitchen, the thousand-and-one sounds and noises that are in the air constantly—why, the smallest of them struck her like a blow from a club. Noises which are not regarded by a well person are like volleys of musketry to one in this condition. Millions of women know all about it, and plenty of men, too—crowds of them. You recognise them on sight—those who are subject to this affliction. Their lined foreheads, their bright, suspicious eyes, their self-protecting gestures and manner—you've seen them. Perhaps you are one of them yourself. If so, you'd give all your money and mortgage your future to have a stronger set of nerves, wouldn't you? Let's talk about it two minutes, first quoting the lady's letter, which is dated May 11th, 1893, and written from her home, 263, Syston Street, Leicester.

"For many years," she says, "I suffered from indigestion and weakness. After meals I had a great pain at my chest. Every few days I had an attack of sick headache, and had to be constantly lying down on the couch; I strained and heaved a good deal, and spat up a sour, nauseous fluid. As time went on I got very weak and nervous, and couldn't bear the least noise."

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month	Baromet.	Wind.	Hygrom.	Temp.	Dir.
Mar.	at 9 a.m.	Direction	at 9 a.m.	at 9 a.m.	at 9 a.m.
22	30.34	42.0 N.W.E.	3 41.5 34.5 42.5 34.0	o.	
23	30.20	44.0 N.W.W.	2 43.5 45.0 45.5 42.5	o.	
24	30.12	42.5 N.W.	2 42.0 40.5 46.0 34.0	N.C.	
25	30.04	50.5 S.E.	3 50.0 48.0 54.0 41.5	N.C.	
26	30.03	52.0 S.W.	2 51.5 49.5 56.0 47.5	o.	
27	30.00	46.0 N.W.E.	1 45.8 42.5 51.5 44.0	o.	
28	29.95	50.0 S.E.	3 49.5 47.5 50.0 44.0	o.	

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

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HONG LIST 1898.

THE Map printed for the Hong List of 1898 comprises not only the coloured Map of the Chinese Empire, but an accurate and official plan of the Settlements and surrounding country, extending from Unkai to the Yangtzepon Police Station, and showing the course of the Sochow Creek, the site of the Railway Station, the new Rifle Range, and the Wharves, Factories, etc., erected on the Pootung side. The Scale of this plan is 1,000 feet to one inch. There is also a smaller plan on the scale of 24,150 feet to a foot, showing the course of the Whangpon from the Hongkew Settlement to the Woosung Fort, and showing all the buildings at present erected on the banks of the River.

Shanghai, 5th Mar., 1898.

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Reserve Fund\$8,000,000
Profits and Dividends of Proprietors, \$10,000,000

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(c.a.)

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AND

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 26th March.)

PIECE GOODS.—There is considerable uneasiness still respecting the political situation, and this has been by no means allayed by the recent rumours that RUSSIAN soldiers were expected to occupy PORT ARTHUR to-day and the BRITISH fleet had been ordered to go North. The news received yesterday, too, that the ENGLISH half of the new China loan had only been applied for by the public to extent of 25%, although applications for the GERMAN half a few days before were much in excess of the total required, seemed to point to fresh complications, the outcome of which is causing grave anxiety. This has possibly only served to intensify the dulness of a week that has been almost entirely devoid of anything of interest in this trade, and it is confidently expected that things will come to a crisis in a few days more. Meanwhile the steamers are loading for NEWCHWANG and leave to-morrow morning for CHEFOO, there to await orders. Latest telegrams advise a decided change in the weather there but considerable ice in the River still. Shipments will probably not be quite so large as it was anticipated they would, as it seems some goods that formerly went to NEWCHWANG for distribution have already been diverted by way of VLADIVOSTOCK. As such goods are entitled to a drawback of the Import Duty when re-exported to the latter Port it will be interesting to learn if this is re-imposed when the goods filter into CHINA again via the RUSSIAN Provinces, and how, as, although at present it probably does not amount to anything very considerable, it may develop and cause an important shrinkage in the Revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs that has been given as security for several foreign Loans. Arrangements are being made for the collection of the likin tax on goods in the interior by the Foreign Customs Authorities, this having been given as part of the security for the new Loan, and will doubtless cause the same amount of trouble and inconvenience that usually attend such innovations in this country. As this will affect the pockets of the Official classes a new tax is being imposed on native business houses to make up for the loss, and thus further hamper trade.

Trade is gradually settling into proper shape in TIENTSIN, latest advices being more encouraging, but they still have a large quantity of goods there to work off. Clearances for other ports are going on satisfactorily of former purchases, very few fresh orders however are coming in yet. There has been some forward business, but mostly in specialities. Prices at Auction are easier for all Grey Cottons, and also Woollens goods.

The MANCHESTER market is steady to firm, many Manufacturers being engaged well ahead, with orders for INDIA apparently. Cotton is slightly lower, to-day's quotation being 3.5 d., considering that it is now estimated the crop in the UNITED STATES will exceed 11½ million bales the price is keeping up wonderfully well. There has been some rather extensive buying in AMERICA during the week for this market on a sterling basis, and at prices that do not show much margin on the quotations now current here. Raw Cotton has also been bought for some of the Local Mills at a price that lays it down on a par with the present cost of the native staple.

Reverting to the Trade of 1897 the following is an extract from the Annual Report just published by the Statistical Secretary of the Imperial Maritime Customs:—"Cotton Piece Goods shows, as was expected, a falling off from the figures for 1896. American goods, however, continue to increase in favour—Drills showing an improvement of over 300,000 pieces, Jeans of over 15,000 pieces, and Sheetings of nearly 170,000 pieces,—but these are almost the only exceptions to the general decline. Shirts of all kinds, except Plain Dyed, fell off. Drills, except American, show a heavy decrease, while Jeans improved. Of Sheetings, except American, less were imported by over half a million pieces. On the whole, the year, owing to fall in exchange and the heavy stocks carried over from 1896, was one of the worst on record for the Piece Goods trade. The favour which American goods find in the Chinese market is due to their cheapness. Freight from America are lower than from Europe, and the high prices which protection enables American manufacturers to obtain from consumers at home allow them to export the balance of their out-turn and lay it down in this country at attractive rates. It is a strange result of protection that American manufacturers should be able to clothe the Chinese partly at the expense of their own countrymen. The importation of inferior qualities of plain goods seems likely to cease, the products of Chinese mills gradually taking their place. Even before the erection of local Cotton mills an increasing importation of Cotton Yarn had shown that the people prefer a home-made article in the commoner grades, and of late years importations have contained a larger proportion of finer goods. This tendency is likely to become more marked in the future, and in connexion with this subject it is interesting to note that while the importation of English and Indian Cotton Yarn fell off in 1897, that of Japanese Yarn was more than doubled.

All kinds of Woollen Piece Goods, except Lastings, show a decrease, while Miscellaneous Piece Goods slightly improved."

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—There is scarcely any enquiry, only two small sales being reported this week, namely: *Melon and Boy* at £1.95 less 1 per cent, and to arrive, and *Blue Joss* at £2.35. Prices went much easier at Auction.

Light Weights.—Nothing mentioned privately, and at Auction weak prices prevailed.

Heavy Weights.—The following sales of 10-lbs. are reported, namely:—*Red Butterfly* at £2.70 and *Blue Dragon* at £3.07½. There was a decided decline in these makes also at Auction this week.

12-lbs., 56-inch.—Sales of nearly 10,000 pieces are reported this week at slightly lower prices, as follows:—*Warrior A* £3.23, *Soldier NNN* and *Guardman MMM* £3.32½ and *Soldier GGG* £3.58. The inclination is still to lower prices and Auction chops continue tending downwards.

White Shirtings.—A desultory sort of business has to be reported again, the sales being very moderate in extent. The following quotations are published:—*Gold Joss* £2.60, *Gold Eagle A* £2.80, *Buffalo and Stork M* £3.35, *Two Boy No. 6751* £3.60, less 1 per cent, and *Two Woman and Frog* £3.87½. At Auction common 64-reeds were slightly weaker, but the better makes and higher reeds were steady to firm.

T-Cloths.—In MANCHESTER makes sales are mentioned of *Silver Dragon* and *Eye* chops at £1.75. The small lots at Auction went at a fractional decline for 32-inch.

In INDIA a sale is published of 1,750 pieces *Red Flying Dragon* 7-lbs. at £1.82½.

Jeans.—English.—A sale is reported of *Beaver in a Circle of Cats* at £2.45.

Drills.—English.—The only movement we hear of is 3,000 *Crocodile* at £3.80 to arrive, and in Dutch a small lot of 450 pieces *Lion* at £2.87½.

American.—Sales are mentioned of 6,750 pieces, as follows:—*Dragon Fish* £3.10, *Dragon Head* £3.12½, *Clifton Maypie* £3.15 and *New Lion* £3.22½. The market is steady. It is reported that 7,000 bales have been settled during the week in NEW YORK for this market comprising the following makes, namely, *Piedmont, Enoree, Stark* and *Pepperell*.

Sheetings.—There is nothing to report in English makes. In Indian a few more 15 lbs. *Blue Lion* have been taken at £3.06, showing a slight advance.

American.—The only transaction reported from stock is 2,000 pieces *Augusta* at £3.00. The settlements in NEW YORK advised for this market amount in the aggregate to 5,000 bales and included the following makes, namely, *Piedmont, Clifton, Williston, Pelzer W* and *Appleton*.

Fancy Goods.—The market is quiet pending the receipt of orders from the North. Sales of about 50 cases *Prints* have been made from stock on private terms, and some *Fancy Wheelbarrow Black Italians* are reported at £5.75. It is also rumoured that sales of *Dyed Cotton Lastings* have taken place. There is rather more enquiry for the medium weights of *Turkey Reds*, 4 to 6-lbs., and sales of some 60 cases have been made at slightly easier prices.

Woollens.—There is no improvement to report, the market being very weak. CAMELETS continue to decline for almost all colours, *Scarle* being down two to three mace this week. LONG ELLS have been poorly represented during the interval and were also weak for the heavier weight offered, the other small lot being steady. LASTINGS declined about a mace for the higher reed, but were steady for the others. The advance in SPANISH STRIPES did not continue very long, all chops showing a decline this week of about a candareen and a half—three per cent.

Cotton Yarn.—English.—No further sales are announced this week. The gradually dwindling trade in Single 30/32s. is threatened by the competition of the

Local Mills that are now spinning these counts to a small extent. Sales are reported this week of 60 bales 36/32s. of the *Ewo Mill* at £94.00/94.50. The demand has quite gone off No. 14s. of which there is a fairly large stock in hand and forced sales have been made at three tael decline. Nos. 16s. and 20s. are going off well and most attention is now being paid to the production of these.

Indian.—A small business continues. Owing to an improvement in the Rupee rate in the earlier part of the interval native holders accepted lower prices, and were subsequently followed by foreign Importers, the decline being a tael on Nos. 10s. and 16s. and half a tael on No. 20s. at which the market closes steady. Settlements amount to 1,649 bales, as follows:—

No. 10s., 605 bales.—*Hope Mill* £63.75/63.50, *Imperial* and *James Greaves* £65.25, *Connaught* £66.50, *Tea Carrier* £66.75, *Howard and Bullough* and *Bombay Cotton*, Mule £69.50, and *Scadashi Mill* £70.75.

No. 12s., 75 bales.—*Bombay Cotton*, Mule £70.50 and *Currimbhoy*, Mule £72.00.

No. 16s., 220 bales.—*Kaisar-i-hind* (New Chop) £71.00, *Mayagon* £72.00, *Western India*, *Pony Carriage* £72.25, *Currimbhoy*, Mule £75.75 and *Fanjee Pettit*, Fish £77.75.

No. 20s., 729 bales.—*Nariad Mill* (Peacock) £65.00, *Hope Mill* £76.00, *Imperial*, *Empress Spinning* and *Malakshami*, 5 Old Man, *Red Ticket* £76.50, do do. *Blue Ticket* £76.75, *Anglo Indian*, Mule £76.50/76.75, *Vithaldas Copoldas*, *Woman* £77.00, *China Mill* £77.00/77.25, *Howard and Bullough* £77.50/78.00 and *Ripon Mule* £80.40.

Arrivals this week have been rather freer, the s.s. *Chusan* bringing 5,027 bales and the s.s. *Gisela* 1,564 bales, while the s.s. *Manila* is due to-morrow with 3,351 bales.

Japanese.—These Spinnings continue in good request and prices are unchanged, the sales reported amounting to 400 bales, as follows:—

No. 16., 250 bales—*Stork* £77.00, *Peacock* £77.25, *Blue Fish* £77.50 and *Butterfly* £77.75.

No. 20s., 150 bales—*Pheasant* and *Peacock* £79.75, and *Blue Fish* £80.50.

Metal and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report of 28th March:—**METALS.**—There has not been much done, the few contracts closed being given below. But there have been a number of offers telegraphed home, these being mostly declined on account of high freights and prices not being up to those obtainable elsewhere.

A notable change has been noticeable in LEAD this year. Whereas during the last year not over 1,000 tons of Szechuan lead, put on the market in peculiar ingots, were used, more especially by the tea packers, this year a very much greater quantity has been offered, the foreign produce seeming to have fallen into quite second place.

The following contracts have been closed:—1,000 cases Bamboo Steel "Double Horse" £12.1.6, c.i.f.; 50 tons Steel Plate Cuttings 90s. c.i.f.; 200 tons Steel Plate Test Pieces 94s. c.i.f.; 200 tons Glasgow Horse-shoes 89s. c.i.f.; 150 tons London Cart-tyres 104s. c.i.f.; 100 tons Scrap Iron 80s. c.i.f.; 20 tons Ship Plate $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ £7. c.i.f.; 25 tons Black Iron Sheets, 16 to 26, £8.10 c.i.f.; 120 cases Galv. Corr. Sheets, 26 to 28, £12.17.6 c.i.f.; 60 cases Galv. Plain Sheets, 28, £13.6.6 c.i.f.

But little has been done in Sundries owing to the dearth of news from the interior markets of the northern ports. Deliveries have, however, been very good, nearly all the old stocks being called upon by the dealers, who appear able to dispose of them at prices which enable them to make a profit. The following new business has been reported:—800 cases Scarlet, each 100 tins at £0.16; 20 cases Llama Braid, each 200 boxes at £0.27; 10 cases Tobacco Boxes, each 10 gross at £3.65 per gross; 10 cases Tobacco Boxes No. 2, each 10 gross at £2.70 per gross; 10 cases Wax Matches each 10 gross at £3.55 per gross; 5 cases Half-Silk Umbrellas, each 20 dozen at £8.50 per dozen.

Kerosene has been the cause of a slight flutter in the market during the week, the price going up to £1.65 for a time, closing at £1.62½ firm.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—Malwa (new) £595; (old) £635/700; Patna £542; (new) £534; Benares £550; (new) £530.

EXPORTS

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 28th instant:—

London telegrams to date quote a quiet market and Blue Elephants 10/3. Gold Kilings are quoted from Lyons at Fcs. 27.75.

RAW SILK.—Again nothing to report. In Taysaams, a parcel of Chincum Tiger Tayhow has been settled of Tls. 450. In Yellow Silk some 100 bales have been settled; the market remains quiet.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, March 19th to 25th: are 165 bales White, 63 bales Yellow, and 189 bales Wild Silk.

RE-REELS AND FILATURES.—About 50 bales Steam Filatures, market cargo, have been settled at Tls. 640 to Tls. 695.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 5,141 bales to America, 3,476 bales to the Continent, 47 bales to Japan and 23 bales to London.

WASTE SILK.—Nothing doing.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/6¼ and Fcs. 3.18. Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale.

	Tls. per picul.	Silk per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.		Tls. per picul.	Silk per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
CHINCUMS.—Tiger, Tayhow	450	9/9½	27.20	STEAM FILATURES—			
YELLOW SILK.—Meeyang No. 1	330	7/8½	20.20	Market Chops, 13/15 den...	640 a 695	13/9½ a 14/11½	38.30 a 41.55
" Wongchow	270 a 280	6/0½ a 6/3	16.70 a 17.30				

	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1892-93.
Settlements for this mail	200	1,500	1,000	800	1,000	500 bales.
" " season in- cluding forward contracts }	65,700	59,000	69,500	65,300	66,500	69,500 "
Stocks	5,700	6,000	13,500	5,000	6,500	3,500 "
Total Arrivals including Steam Filatures	71,400	65,000	83,000	69,300	73,000	73,000 "

§ Including old Silk.

	* England.	* France, &c.	Total Europe.	America.	India & Egypt.	Japan, Coast & Straits.	Grand Total.
Export White Silk in Bales of 80 catties }	1,580	34,126	35,706	10,796	1,514	1,065	49,081 bales.
„ Yellow Silk in piculs 5	5	3,435	3,440	29	3,274	1,232	7,975
„ Wild „ 348	348	7,494	7,842	415	18	102	8,377 „
Total.....	1,933	45,055	46,988	11,240	4,806	2,399	65,433 „
Against in 1896-97	2,802	41,755	44,557	5,084	3,342	2,113	55,096 „
„ 1895-96	2,452	46,406	48,858	9,508	7,103	3,378	68,847 „
„ 1894-95	2,217	44,985	47,202	7,573	6,540	2,001	63,616 „
„ 1893-94	5,007	44,658	49,665	2,821	8,588	2,438	63,512 „
„ 1892-93	3,038	52,502	55,090	6,273	5,795	1,801	68,959 „
„ 1891-92	7,104	39,829	46,933	5,246	5,209	1,493	58,881 „
Export Waste Silk	11,219	26,705	37,924	589	...	1,375	39,888 piculs.
Against in 1896-97	7,585	22,431	30,016	1,578	1	34	31,629 „
„ 1895-96	16,496	29,235	45,731	1,744	...	982	48,457 „
„ 1894-95	13,962	21,501	35,463	474	2	97	36,036 „
Export Cocoons.....	79	1,247	1,346	66	...	4,312	5,724 „
Against in 1896-97	217	4,088	4,305	60	...	4,803	9,168 „
„ 1895-96	...	2,272	2,272	935	...	2,002	5,209 „
„ 1894-95	577	1,694	2,271	385	...	2,877	5,533 „

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.
Also 1,547 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.

" 2,203 " " " " " Continent.

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 5½d. Banks Bills, 2s. 5½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 5½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 6½d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 3.11. Credits and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 3.17. 6 months' sight, 3.18. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks, 2.58½, lowest 2.58½, highest 2.61. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$61½, lowest 61½, highest 62. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 75, lowest 75, highest 75 per \$100. Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 74½, lowest 74½, highest 74½. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, \$81½, lowest 81½, highest 81½ per \$100. Private Bills, 15 days' sight, \$80½, lowest 81, highest 80½. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 187, lowest 185½, highest 188 per \$100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 187½. lowest 186, highest 188½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, \$393.00, lowest 391 00, highest 393.00. Silver Bars, \$111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, \$75.30, lowest 75.30, highest 75.55. Carolus dollars, \$95.00, lowest 95.00, highest 96.00. Copper Cash 1,180, lowest 1,180, highest 1,160. Chinese Interest, mace 2.50, lowest 0.8, highest 3.0. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 25½, lowest 25½, highest 25½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morris, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

	Bar Silver £ oz in L'don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.	Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.			Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
March.		Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.	Lowest. Highest.						
22nd	25½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.17/3.18 3.17/3.18		2.59	61½	75	82	185½/286
23rd	25½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.17½/18½ 3.18/3.19		2.60	61½	75	81½	187/188
24th	26½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.19½/20½ 3.19½/20½		2.61	62	75	81½	188
25th	26½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.19½/20½ 3.19½/20½		2.61	62	75	81½	188
26th	25½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.17/3.18 3.18/3.19		2.59	61½	75	81½	187
28th	25½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.5½ 2.5½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	2.6½ 2.6½	3.17/3.18 3.17/3.18		2.58½	61½	75	81½	186½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 28th March:—

Business has not been brisk. Unsettled politics, scarcity of ready money, and the approaching settlement, have all interfered.

BANKS.—*Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Cash sales have been made at 194 and 195 per cent premium, and for June at 202 per cent. In Hongkong there are buyers at 184 per cent premium. *National Bank of China* shares have improved in Hongkong to \$18.50.

MARINE INSURANCE.—*China Traders' Insurance* shares changed hands at \$65. *Unions* have changed hands in Hongkong of \$320. *North Chinas* are offering at \$200. *Cantons* are offering in the South at \$130.

FIRE INSURANCE.—There is no local business reported. In Hongkong *Chinas* are offering at \$99, and *Hongkongs* at \$337.50.

SHIPPING.—*Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat* shares were placed to Hongkong at \$28.50. A fair business was done in *Indo-China S.N.* shares at \$43.50 cash and \$46 for the 30th June locally, and to Hongkong at \$60 cash and \$60.50 for the 30th April. *China Mutual S.N.* Preference shares were sold at \$60 and Ordinary shares at \$26, cum the dividends of 3 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

SUGAR COMPANIES.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares were placed at \$39 and \$40 cash, \$41.50 for June. *Luzon Sugar Refining* shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$42.

MINING.—*Sheridan Mining* share are wanted. *Raub Australian Gold Mining* shares were placed at \$29 for the 10th April. Cash shares are offering at \$27.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Business has been done in *Boyd & Co.* shares at \$195, *Shanghai Dock* shares at \$87.50 cash, \$85 for March, and \$90 for June, and *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* shares at \$126.50 cum div. *Hongkong and Whampoa Dock* shares have changed hands in Hongkong at 251½ prem., and *Hongkong & Kowloon Godown* shares at \$57.

LANDS.—No business reported. *Shanghai Land Investment* shares are wanted at \$90 and held for \$92.50. There are sellers of *Hongkong Land Investment* shares at \$74.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Shanghai Gas* shares were sold at \$215. *Major Brothers, Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and statement of accounts for 1897 have been published. The meeting of shareholders will be held on the 25th current. The profits amount to \$12,109.38, equal to 4.40 per cent on the paid up capital, as against 2.62 per cent in the previous year. From this is deducted the debit balance of \$2,474.07 brought forward, and the balance of \$9,635.31 is placed to Depreciation and Adjustment account. In *Cotton Mill* shares, *Internationals* were sold at \$112-110 cash, and \$112 for both March and April, and *Soy Chees* at \$505, \$490 and \$505. *Laou-Kung-Mows* are offering. *China Flour Mill* shares were sold at \$55.

TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—*Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and statement of accounts for 1897 were presented and passed at a meeting of shareholders held on the 23rd instant. The net profits for the year amounted to \$31,181.38, equal to 31.18% on the Capital, as compared with 35.59% in the previous year. Including a balance of \$486.72 from 1896, and deducting \$15,000 paid in three interim dividends of 5%, there remained a balance of \$16,668.10 to divide. A sum of \$9,000 was placed to Reserve, which now stands at \$75,000, and a final dividend of 5% was declared, making 20% for the year, which leaves a balance of \$2,668.10, out of which a bonus of one month's pay to the employees of the Company will be paid. *Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares were placed, and are offering, at \$180.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and statement of accounts for 1897 have been published for the meeting of shareholders called for the 6th April. The balance of working account is \$145,663.23, which exceeds that of 1896 by \$28,362.34. The net profits, after writing off \$10,668.86 for Depreciation, amounts to \$123,390.42, equal to 18.53% on the capital, as compared with 14.35% in the previous years. Deducting the interim dividend of 15 shillings paid in July at exchange 2/8, and adding the balance of \$8,421.26 from the previous year, there is a sum of \$91,311.68 at credit of Profit and Loss, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 25/0 per share, at exchange 2/5½, equal to \$72,605.64, and to place \$10,000 to the credit of the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at \$30,000, leaving a balance of \$8,706.64 to be carried forward. *Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares were sold at \$85-84.50 cash, and \$92 for both July and August. *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco* shares changed hands, and are offering, at \$300. *J. Llewellyn & Co.* shares were placed at \$60, and *Hall & Holtz* shares at \$40.

LOANS.—*Shanghai Land 5.50% Debentures* were sold at par, plus the accrued interest.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$100	6 %	Dec. & June.	(g) 5.73%	... (a) \$102.00
Do. 1890	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.76%	... \$102.00
Do. 1891	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.39%	... \$101.00
Do. 1892	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	...	... (a) \$98.00
Do. 1893	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.41%	... (a) \$101.00
Do. 1894	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.80%	... (a) \$102.00
Do. 1895	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.18%	... (a) \$98.00
Do. 1896	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.17%	... (a) \$98.00
Lyceum Theatre Debentures	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$25	4 %	24 July 1895	...	... \$16.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	\$707,200.00	\$680,104.00	\$250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.98%	... (a) \$275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures 1890	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 5.76%	... (a) \$102.00
Do. Do. 1892	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.50%	... (a) \$100.00
Do. Do. 1894	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.80%	... (a) \$102.00
Do. Do. 1896	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.44%	... (a) \$95.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures [94]	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.81%	... (a) \$102.00
Do. [96]	\$100,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$100	5 %	June & Dec.	(a) 5.44%	... (a) \$95.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.60%	... (a) \$102.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 26th March, 1898, comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.		For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings	23,060 pcs.	17,290 pcs.	19,475 pcs.	Velvets	60 pcs.	60 pcs.	144 pcs.
White Shirtings	5,940 "	6,420 "	8,510 "	Velveteens	84 "	84 "	"
T-Cloths	1,670 "	840 "	1,130 "	Cotton Italians	420 "	180 "	"
Drills, English	30 "	210 "	375 "	Camlets	540 "	540 "	860 "
Jeans	220 "	220 "	120 "	Long Ellis	140 "	260 "	460 "
Sheetings	120 "	140 "	700 "	Lastings	400 "	200 "	640 "
Turkey Reds	400 "	600 "	1,410 "	Spanish Stripes	630 "	714 "	642 "

At E-Wo, 23rd inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—420 pieces; Eagle and Snake £1.51½, and Red Lotus £1.66.

8.4-lbs.—4,320 pieces; Black Tea Caddy XX £1.82/82½, Black Lotus £1.97, Red Lion £2.02, Blue Crab £2.06½, Red Dragon and 6 Women £2.13, Red Bell £2.17/18½, Black Lotus Pot £2.18½, Blue Man £2.22½, Blue Dragon and E-wo £2.25½/26, Blue Bell XX £2.28½, and Red Tea Caddy £2.29½.

10-lbs.—1,400 pieces; Red Dragon and 6 Women £2.54½, Red Dragon and 5 Men £2.58/58½, Blue Dragon and Shield £2.61½/61½, Green Dragon and 5 Men £2.64, Blue Crab £2.64½, and Blue Flower Pot £2.96½.

11-lbs.—500 pieces; Blue Dragon and 7 Boys £2.96½/97½, Blue Dragon and 5 Men £3.16/16½.

12-lbs.—1,020 pieces; Blue Bell XX £3.07½, Red Lotus £3.09, Blue Lotus £3.19, Man and Gun £3.20½/21½, Chinese AAA £3.27½, and Blue Flower Pot £3.29.

12½-lbs.—100 pieces; Blue Round Phenix £3.55.

White Shirtings.—350 pieces; House No. 3 £3.15, do. X £3.39, do. Y £3.65½, do. Z £3.74, Painted Phenix EO £3.57½ and Bat and Peach £4.40.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,150 pieces; Blue Elephant £1.56½, Blue Dragon and Flag £1.62, and Red Tea Caddy £1.65½.

Jeans.—English.—8-lbs.—100 pieces; Tiger and Tree £2.60½.

Drills.—English.—14-lbs.—30 pieces; Blue Lion £2.80.

Sheetings.—American.—14-lbs.—500 pieces; Pig's Head £2.93/94.

At Yuen-foong, 24th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—2,250 pieces; Blue Britannia £1.57½/58½, Blue 4 Sister £1.63½/63½, and Blue 3 Students £1.90½.

8.4-lbs.—6,810 pieces; Blue Junk £1.67½/68½, Green 9 Lions £1.66½/67, House £1.69½, Double Man £1.75½/76, Blue Britannia £1.69½, Blue 3 Students £2.04½, Blue 4 Sisters £2.04½, Blue Double Shield £2.08, Black Gold 3 Students £2.10½, Red 3 Students £2.09½/10½, Red Emperor's Birthday £2.12½/13½, 7 Sisters £2.24½/24½, 5 Brothers £2.29, and 8½-lbs.—300 pieces; 18 Brothers £2.49.

10-lbs.—2,950 pieces; Red Britannia £2.59½, Red 3 Students £2.56½/56½, Red Emperor's Birthday £2.61½/61½, Red 4 Sister £2.69½, and Painted 8 Literati £3.00.

10, 12-lbs.—1,000 pieces; Gold Britannia £2.92½/92½, Lily £3.38.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; Painted 3 Students £3.00½/01.

12-lbs.—1,240 pieces; China Square £2.90½/91½, Nine Lions £3.00, Soldier £3.01½/02, and Lily £3.31½/32.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—1,550 pieces; House Bright £2.12/13½, do. Dull £2.09½, Blue 2 Lighthouse Bright £2.18½, do. Dull £2.13½, and Black Gold 3 Students £2.57½.

72-reed.—4,040 pieces; White Gold 3 Students £2.72½/72½, Red 2 Sisters, Bright £2.74/74½, Red 2 Light House Bright £2.78½, do. Dull £2.79½/80, Red Gold Star, Bright £3.11½/11½, do. Dull £3.10, Red 5 Star, Bright £3.20, Painted 4 Sisters, Bright £3.01½, do. Dull £3.10/12, Black Flag, Chief £3.31½/32½, Painted Grand Fathers £3.59½, Lily £3.70 and Students £4.21.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—420 pieces; Blue 3 Students £1.47½, and Red 3 Students £1.76/76½.

8-lbs.—100 pieces; Painted 3 Students £2.31.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; Double Squirrel £2.44½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—120 pieces; Old Man Iron A. £3.02½/02½.

Black Cotton Italians.—420 pieces; Loo Loo Tong £4.05, Students £4.32½, Painted 9 Lions £4.42½, Painted 2 Sisters £4.42½, and Lily £6.35.

At Nie-kee, 26th inst.—

Velvets, Black.—60 pieces; 22-in. Lion and Flag £0.1.64.

Velveteens Black.—84 pieces; 18-in. Lion and Flag £0.12, 1, 26-in. House £0.1.48 and Snowfall £0.1.6.

Turkey Reds.—400 pieces; Watch 3½-lbs. £1.81, Green 5 Boys 3½-lbs. £2.00/01, do. 3½-lbs. £2.13, do. 4½-lbs. £2.39, do. 4½-lbs. £2.50, "Kung-chi-doo" Chop 7-lbs. £3.20 and do. 8-lbs. £3.35.

AUCTION SALES OF WOOLLENS DURING THE WEEK.

Chops—	Scarlet.	Ok. Blue.	Ok. G'tian	Gr. & N. Green.	Orange & Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White	Purple	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid.	Sales Pcs.
Camlets.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.
Lighthouse, S.S.G. p. pc.	14.10	13.80	13.70	14.80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	20	10	10	10*	.....	Pink	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
9 Old Man, S.S.H. p. pc.	13.05/10	13.12½/17½	13.20/25	14.70	13.27½/45	15.40	.....	.....	12.87½	.....	12.67½	12.67½	310
Sales, pcs.	120	60	60	10*	20*	10	.....	.....	10	.....	10	10*	.....
Goose, p. pc.	.....	.....	12.99	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Man & Horse, p. pc.	13.03/06	.....	12.94/95	.....	13.21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.76	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	50	.....	30	.....	20*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	110
Horse & Lion, p. pc.	12.05	.....	10.37	10.59	9.76	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	20	.....	10	10*	10*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Long Ellis.													
Tiger & Ring, C.P.H. p. pc.	7.11/16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80
Tiger, C.P.H. p. pc.	5.41	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
Lastings.													
Ship, C.C.R. p. pc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.02½	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200	.....	.....	.....	200
9 Old Man, F.F.R. p. pc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.80	.....	.....	10.97½	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	.....	.....	20*	100
Goose, p. pc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.60	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	20
Tiger, C.P.H. p. pc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.82	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60	.....	.....	.....	60
Duck, p. pc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.69	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	20

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 25th March, 1898.
compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 63 to 68, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

Goods.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Ponchow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Soochow & Hangchow.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Local.	Sundries.
Grey Shirtings 1 Pcs.	7,645	1,070	12,340	1,355	13,475	40,370	2350	11,005	27,435	...	600	...	...	...	...	...	12,000	...
T-Cloths, 32-in. "	700	1,015	1,185	435	965	3,005	...	800	17,690	...	8275	...	...	...	...	...	1,200	...
" 36-in. "	1,220	...	60	...	327	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700	...
" Indian, 32 & 36-in. "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
White Shirtings "	2,344	800	2,440	540	3,377	12,747	100	4,770	11,907	...	440	...	...	...	...	...	7,000	1150
Drills, English & Indian. "	220	15	255	30	30	810	...	532	465	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	450	...
" Dutch "	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	3,270	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	...
" American "	300	30	735	15	15	5,850	...	5,625	6,810	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	...
Jeans, English & Indian. "	...	...	90	...	...	100	...	60	1,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
" Dutch "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
" American "	...	...	40	...	20	100	...	...	600	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...
Sheetings, English "	340	60	3,368	2,921	6,200	3,590	600	180	5,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	100
" Indian "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	770	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
" American "	1,280	60	...	20	400	300	...	11,460	3,760	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	...
Dyed Shirtings "	150	...	...	...	130	190	...	...	552	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250	...
Bro. & Sp. S'tings, D. & W. "	...	50	40	...	200	170	...	850	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	250	...
Chintzes "	120	...	70	220	120	1,010	...	1,730	3,865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Printed T-Cloths "	587	...	1,459	540	1,134	7,110	...	2,042	6,062	...	1509	...	...	...	...	...	600	...
Printed Twills "	...	...	380	...	480	1,678	200	170	656	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Turkey Red Shirtings. "	...	50	485	365	955	1,600	...	1,755	575	...	340	...	...	...	...	...	200	80
Velvets "	30	...	30	...	54	60	...	30	84	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Velveteens. "	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...
Handkerchiefs. Doz.	640	...	400	800	2,485	1,620	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,400	...
Muslins. Pcs.	200	...	100	...	...	550	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Lenos & Balzarines. "	...	...	...	...	...	345	...	80	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian. Pcs.	30	39	1,528	60	2,181	3,080	1263	2,283	6,729	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
" English. "	12	...	24	...	54	1,107	...	60	159	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
" Japan. "	45	42	...	183	1,650	2,300	...	565	1,457	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	60	...
" Shanghai. "	210	135	12	...	1,282	1,317	195	750	1,320	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Japanese Stripes, Woollen. Pcs.	84	6	228	12	120	228	...	30	54	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	96	...
" Cotton. "	12	...	72	...	24	96	...	192	301	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	...
Medium & Broad Cloths. "	42	6	54	18	60	268	12	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Camlets. "	40	40	30	30	150	200	...	10	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	140	...
Long Ells. "	40	...	80	40	70	320	...	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	...
Lastings. "	89	...	...	...	50	130	...	200	532	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Italian Cloth. "	30	...	448	90	61	48	30	390	60	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	160	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians. "	481	150	2,210	460	1,862	7,186	410	4,827	9,915	...	110	...	...	...	...	...	700	...
Plain & Figured Orleans. "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Flannels. "	40	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
do. Japan. "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pigs. Pcs.	...	...	133	...	73	1,166	...	404	353	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod. "	676	...	1,092	29	113	189	...	1,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American. Cases	6,200	600	14,000	1,600	2,730	17,500	...	9,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Russian. "	2,000	5,800	7,000	550	2,000	8,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 31st Dec, 1897.	
	As above.	for the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	* At date Estimated.	Against 26th March, 1897.
Grey Shirtings. Pcs.	129,675	1,233,058	1,138,594	67,217	635,497	856,920	627,439	1,629,728
T-Cloths, 32-in. "	35,370	207,341	163,209	9,044	108,060	150,953	215,719	280,202
" 36-in. "	2,307	17,991	18,994	3,477	26,478	21,984	75,942	65,463
" Indian, 32 & 36-in. "	600	20,300	50,660	...	6,420	79,890	48,120	55,206
White Shirtings "	47,615	421,001	363,128	12,963	212,269	435,563	361,268	729,849
Drills, Eng. & Indian. "	2,837	26,678	26,006	3,067	30,682	40,680	59,698	164,755
" Dutch "	3,880	7,640	...	...	...	...	13,045	...
" American "	19,980	158,775	78,785	7,500	59,475	183,411	444,700	405,886
Jeans, Eng. & Indian. "	1,930	25,593	25,960	1,650	33,440	22,518	40,467	55,114
" Dutch "	2,500	8,470	...	3,250	7,390	...	23,600	...
" American "	900	10,680	8,235	...	10,000	15,000	3,320	13,685
Sheetings, English. "	23,439	151,633	140,754	5,419	55,933	109,048	?	223,777
" Indian. "	870	4,070	18,380	...	12,210	...	4,014	62,365
" American. "	45,180	421,360	189,110	10,000	156,480	541,718	605,120	1,383,698
Dyed Shirtings. "	1,272	37,157	49,001	180	8,974	30,331	3,166	13,342
Bro. & Spot. Shirts, D. & W. "	1,610	6,577	8,094	200	1,357	5,119	18,822	29,926
Chintzes. "	7,435	36,912	43,529	...	713	72,123	33,974	63,096
Printed T-Cloths. "	21,043	127,694	140,147	1,370	25,090	202,312	327,396	509,361
Printed Twills. "	3,964	24,189	23,119	...	1,238	36,380	80,518	116,948
Turkey Red Shirtings. "	6,405	53,024	52,009	3,315	29,425	22,226	46,401	242,803
Velvets. "	468	4,253	4,448	60	1,176	10,457	15,998	24,753
Velveteens. "	102	1,548	1,314	...	96	3,005	12,667	17,849
Handkerchiefs. Doz.	8,745	93,787	119,674	4,492	21,520	123,610	107,584	424,356
Muslins. Pcs.	1,650	49,190	23,581	7,693	22,064	39,314	97,750	116,200
Lenos & Balzarines. "	905	30,252	7,212	2,910	36,381	15,733	18,559	20,638
Cotton Yarn, Indian. Pcs.	17,493	151,584	115,927	16,077	138,642	123,049	97,170	129,849
" English. "	1,446	5,818	6,084	210	5,889	2,686	3,159	2,169
" Japan. "	6,315	53,796	20,099	4,791	71,135	27,522	26,066	24,428
" Shanghai. "	5,269	33,687	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japanese Stripes, Woollen. Pcs.	882	5,558	7,680	1,200	3,948	4,145	10,122	10,225
" Cotton. "	769	7,664	8,922	1,056	2,136	15,733	12,622	28,129
Med. & Broad Cloths. "	590	4,202	3,168	39	1,966	6,358	12,450	15,492
Camlets. "	680	8,308	9,263	1,231	6,367	8,694	15,959	16,461
Long Ells. "	870	9,965	12,404	780	4,740	11,180	43,210	64,701
Lastings. "	1,201	11,996	12,100	900	5,904	20,761	17,701	29,655
Italian Cloth. "	1,779	18,169	16,811	1,068	15,575	27,797	54,406	63,995
Cotton Lastings & Italians. "	28,311	226,149	215,819	15,645	171,497	319,319	415,348	507,366
Plain & Figured Orleans. "	80	180	180	...	480	1,720	4,590	...
Cotton Flannels. "	100	5,852	5,020	16	6,083	1,023	58,782	64,733
do. Japan. "	...	545	1,125	...	268	2,325	?	2,950
Lead in Pigs. Pcs.	2,129	13,454	15,613	1,683	15,063	20,321	2,109	13,188
Iron, Nail Rod. "	3,359	36,647	23,824	5,712	16,233	10,587	42,485	119,281
Kerosine Oil, American. Cases	63,230	594,682	529,934	125,681	497,861	403,699	738,719	...
" Russian. "	28,795	258,845	287,104	...	29,717	420,913	?	...

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 28th March, 1898.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. & C.		Average dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION		
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When paid or due.			Closing.		
Banks.													
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$8,000,000	\$298,863.22	31-12-97	*£14	14-2-98	\$23.96	6.50	\$368.75	289.19	
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.	107,483	£8	£34	.....	£50,886.16	31-12-96	None.	.....	.....	.....	nom.	nom.	
Do. ordinary shares	1,101	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£5.50	18.50	
Do. deferred do.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.50	13.50	13.50	
National Bank of China, Ltd.	3,818	£10	.....	\$109,486.64	\$4,523.23	31-12-97	†\$1.18	1-3-97	\$1.20	.....	nominal	nom.	
Do.	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$18.50	13.50	
Do. Founders'	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Insurance (Marine.)													
Union In. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,280,000.00 (c) \$78,648.64	\$674,784.53	30-6-97	†\$16	15-10-97	\$14.33	6.37	\$225.00	164.25	
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,000,000.00 £158,393.77	\$351,807.25	30-4-97	†\$5	4-10-97	\$5.00	7.69	\$65.00	47.45	
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$306,887.20	31-12-96	†\$18.18	28-4-97	\$17.06	8.50	.....	200.00	
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$00	\$450,000.00 c\$76,783.70	\$344,185.07	31-12-96	†\$12	30-4-97	\$11.00	7.74	\$142.00	102.68	
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,300,000.00	\$4,276.22	31-12-96	†\$5	13-1-98	\$11.00	8.45	\$130.00	94.90	
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$10,000,000.00 c\$100,000.00	\$585,932.16	31-12-96	†\$2	27-3-96	\$1.83	14.08	\$13.00	9.49	
Insurance (Fire.)													
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,046,783.76	\$288,875.16	31-12-97	†\$26	28-2-98	\$19.75	5.80	\$340.00	248.20	
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$1,000,000	\$237,802.90	31-12-97	†\$6.65	28-2-98	\$6.85	6.85	\$100.00	73.00	
Shipping.													
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$37,344.58	31-12-97	*\$1.20	29-1-98	\$2.22	8.22	\$27.00	19.71	
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$20,000.00 £115,628.14	£1,380.16	31-12-96	†\$5.07	2-7-96	\$3.38	8.70	.....	44.70	
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	c\$50,624.50	.....	30-6-97	†\$4.00	27-9-97	\$6.00	10.17	\$59.00	45.07	
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	c£14,005.45	£1,490.94	31-12-95	{ *\$3 †\$6	1-10-97 31-3-97	\$4.22 \$3.92	8.03	.....	60.00	
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	{ *\$3 †\$6	1-10-97 31-3-97	\$4.22 \$3.92	.....	.....	nom.	
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	c£122,199.11	.....	.....	{ *\$3 †\$6	1-10-97 31-3-97	\$4.22 \$3.92	7.54	.....	28.00	
Sugar Companies.													
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$77,156.07	31-8-97	†\$2	23-1-96	\$0.67	1.76	.....	38.00	
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$140,000	\$13,753.31	31-12-97	†\$10	23-3-98	\$6.83	2.87	\$168.00	122.64	
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$5,900.31	31-12-97	†\$3	23-3-98	\$2.67	6.13	\$43.50	31.76	
Mining.													
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$7131,536.34	31-12-96	None.	.....	none	.....	.....	2.50	
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	\$6,537.25	31-12-97	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ \$6.45 \$1.20	4.71 0.88	
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.88	
Jebebu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$38,523.18	28-7-97	*\$5	15-10-94	\$0.48	24.00	\$2.00	1.46	
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	none	£2,361.17	31-3-97	†\$0.51	7-2-98	\$0.35	1.22	\$27.00	19.71	
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.													
Beyd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	{ †\$117 †\$12	29-7-96 18-8-97	\$39.00 \$13.00	.....	.....	250.00	
Beyd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	\$190,000.00	\$11,742.10	30-4-97	{ †\$12 †\$12	18-8-97 9-9-97	\$13.00 \$12.67	6.66	.....	195.00	
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	\$275,000	\$18,356.95	30-6-97	{ †\$12 †\$12	9-9-97 9-9-97	\$12.67	7.24	.....	175.00	
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$14,916.64	30-4-97	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	87.50	
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250.00	
H'kong & W'pao Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$700,000	\$107,284.73	31-12-97	*\$12	22-2-98	\$27.92	5.77	\$438.75	320.29	
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$16,137.20	31-12-97	†\$5	23-3-98	\$7.75	6.38	.....	121.50	
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$9,808.81	31-12-97	†\$1.50	22-2-98	\$1.94	3.34	\$58.00	42.34	
Lands.													
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	\$50	\$50	\$200,000.00	\$4,614.61	31-12-97	†\$3.25	7-2-98	\$4.38	4.73	.....	92.50	
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$57,856.26	31-12-97	†\$4	29-1-98	\$4.00	5.40	\$74.00	54.02	
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	none	\$164.60	31-12-97	†\$1.00	27-1-98	\$0.87	4.83	\$18.00	13.14	
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$934.68	31-12-97	16%	5-3-98	\$0.59	6.94	8.50	6.21	
Industrial.													
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$37,574.22	31-12-97	†\$3.00	20-1-98	\$14.41	6.70	.....	215.00	
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$2,474.07	31-12-96	†\$1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	35.00	
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,303.86	31-10-97	†\$3.50	24-11-97	.....	.....	.....	100.00	
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	7,620	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,678.69	30-9-97	†\$3.50	8-11-97	.....	.....	.....	110.00	
Laou-kung-mew Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$21,108.37	31-12-97	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	109.00	
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	\$2,366.61	\$469.00	1-2-98	†\$20	.....	.....	.....	.....	505.00	
Yah Loong Cotton Spin. Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	94.00	
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	\$6,800.00	.....	31-10-97	†\$6	20-1-97	\$9.00	7.50	.....	120.00	
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$649.65	31-12-97	†\$1.75	7-2-98	.....	.....	.....	30.00	
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	\$1,206.24	.....	31-12-97	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.00	
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95.00	
H'kong Cotton S. W. & D. Co., Ltd.	9,000	\$100	\$20	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	\$12.00	8.76	
S'hai Feather Cleaning Co., Ltd.	300	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	500.00	
Tugs and Cargo Boats.													
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$75,000	\$2,668.10	31-12-97	†\$5	23-3-98	\$20	9.52	.....	210.00	
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,600	T. \$50	T. \$50	T. \$120,000.00 c 35,051.10	\$7,935.65	31-12-96	†\$7	27-2-96	\$7.67	6.98	T. \$110.00	.....	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$125,425.39	\$4,059.45	31-12-97	†\$7	5-3-98	\$15.33	8.52	.....	180.00	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$57,152.84	\$2,048.66	31-12-97	†\$6	5-3-98	\$13.67	8.04	.....	170.00	
Miscellaneous.													
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	£20	£20	\$20,000.00	\$8,362.17	31-12-96	†\$5.63	26-7-97	\$12.58	4.12	.....	305.00	
Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ltd.	650	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	T. \$101.00	.....	
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	\$20	\$20	\$42,000.00	\$535.06	31-12-97	†\$3.72	16-3-98	\$6.47	7.65	.....	84.50	
Shanghai-Langkai Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$199,114.02	31-12-96	None.	.....	.....	.....	(j)	300.00	
Do. New issue	4,000	\$100	\$25	.....	.....	.....	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$9,586.26	\$9,751.23	31-12-96	.....	24-4-96	\$4.00	5.33	.....	75.00	
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$306.29	31-12-96	†\$7	25-5-93	.....	.....	\$60.00	43.80	
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$125,000	\$4,496.49	28-2-97	†\$2	18-10-97	\$3.33	8.32	\$40.00	29.20	
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$12,159.15	31-12-96	†\$5	22-5-97	\$0.97	8.09	\$12.00	8.76	
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	£135.13	31-12-96	None.	.....	.....	.....	\$5.00	3.65	
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$3,960.93	30-4-97	†\$5	1-7-97	\$0.27	2.70	\$10.00	7.30	
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	\$87,889.84	28-2-97	None	.....	.....	.....	\$13.13	9.58	

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. (j) Cam the right to the new issue at par. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73. (k) The Accounts are not published.

J. P. BISSET & Co.